Mexican Catholicism in Southern California: The Importance of Popular Religiosity and Sacramental Practice in Faith Experience

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ABSTRACT

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The Importance of Popular Religiosity and Sacramental

Practice in Faith Experience

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Through the experience of Mexican immigration to Southern California, the Catholic Church of that area is increasingly becoming a Mexican Catholic community. This professional project is an examination of the faith experience of Mexican Catholics in Southern California, specifically emphasizing the role of popular religiosity and sacramental practice in that faith experience.

After a brief examination of some pertinent demographics regarding the scope of Mexican immigration to Southern California, Chapter 2 presents the results of interviews conducted with Mexican Catholics in Santa Ana, California. These interviews demonstrate the centrality of popular religiosity and sacramental practice in Mexican Catholic faith experience. Chapter 3 explores the historical antecedents of this faith experience in both pre-Columbian Nahuatl religion and the Catholicism of sixteenth-century Spain. It then studies current theological reflection within the Mexican American Catholic community to see current reflection upon the faith experience presented. Chapter 4 highlights certain aspects of Mexican Catholicism presented by this study. In Chapter 5 a model of ministry from the Mexican Catholic

community of Santa Ana is examined as an example of effective ministry to the Mexican Catholic faith experience. Finally, Chapter 6 concludes with areas of further reflection, specifically concerning the relationship of Mexican Catholicism to American Catholicism and to questions raised by the experiences of the Catholic Church in Latin America.

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Finally, I am grateful for permissions given for sources that have been used. Conversations with Allan Deck, as noted below, have been used with permission. The passage describing the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe, presented in La Morenita: Evangelizer of the Americas by Virgilio Elizondo is reprinted by permission of the Mexican American Cultural Center, San Antonio.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

This study takes as its focus Catholic ministry in Santa Ana, California. In Santa Ana, the Catholic communities are predominantly Hispanic, mostly of Mexican origin. One statistical demonstration of this is that, the student population in the Santa Ana Unified School District is 81 percent Hispanic, a figure that parallels the enrollment in the city's Catholic schools. This means that the Catholic communities in that city are, for the most part, Hispanic.

This reality in Santa Ana is set within the context of the Catholic dioceses in the Southwest which are themselves predominantly Hispanic. Presenting demographic evidence from the 1985 Census, Allan Figueroa Deck writes of the Hispanic presence in the Catholic community.

The implications of these data (1985 Census) for the United States Catholic Church are far-reaching. The 1986 Official Catholic Directory estimates the Catholic population of the United States to be 52.2 million. A conservative estimate of the Hispanic population of the U.S. . . . is in excess of twenty million. How many of these Hispanics are Catholics? There is not any totally reliable study of this available, but the estimates range from a low of 75 percent to a high of 95 percent. If one takes the middle road and considers 85 percent of the Hispanics to be baptized Catholics, then approximately eighteen

Dan Froomkin, "3% More Students in OC Classrooms:
Minorities Make Up 45% of School Population," Orange County
Register, 10 January 1990: B1, 8.

million of the 52.2 million U.S. Catholics are Hispanic, that is 34 percent. In some areas of the nation Hispanics already constitute a majority of the Catholics - California, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, for instance. In nine of the twelve diocese of California, Hispanics constitute a majority of the Catholics. This is especially true of the archdiocese of Los Angeles, the most populous archdiocese of the nation, where the Hispanic population is in excess of 70 percent of the entire Catholic population.²

Regarding specifically Mexican immigration to California:

Since 1975, 64 percent of all families leaving Mexico went to California. Another survey of 62,500 Mexican households in 1978-79 found that 50.9 percent of all Mexicans reportedly present in the U.S. at the time of the survey were living in California. . . .

Where in California do the immigrants go? Massively they are going to Southern California, especially Los Angeles County and the four neighboring counties of Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura. A report of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) points out that 500,000 immigrants came to the five southern California counties in the years 1975-1980. This is over half of the region's net growth. In fact, one of every eight immigrants (Hispanic or otherwise) coming to the U.S. during those years came to one of these five counties. . .

The SCAG report, in fact, projects an Hispanic population of 6,016,000 for just these five counties by the year 2000 if the optimum factors continue to obtain. The non-Hispanic white population of the region by the year 2000 is projected at 6,149,000.³

The emphasis presented by these figures continues. Preliminary results from the 1990 Census show that Orange

² Allan Figueroa Deck, <u>The Second Wave: Hispanic Ministry</u> and the Evangelization of <u>Cultures</u> (New York: Paulist Press, 1989), 12.

³ Deck, Second Wave, 17.

County grew at a rate to 24 percent, the population of Santa Ana growing the most, with a 41 percent increase during the ten years of the Census.⁴ First day enrollment for the academic year 1990-1991 showed an increase of 12 percent,⁵ reflecting the continued Hispanic immigration to the city.

All of this indicates that the Catholic Church in California has become, to a large extent, a Mexican Catholic community. This is true not only for those cities in which the population is predominantly of Mexican origin because, as the numbers indicate, that population comprises such a large part of the general Catholic population that it is the Catholic community itself that is Hispanic, 6 not just select pockets of it.

This demands, as a consequence, that ministry and

⁴ Marilyn Kalfus, "Santa Ana Back on Top as County's Biggest City," <u>Orange County Register</u>, 28 August 1990: A1, 10.

⁵ Dan Froomkin and Marilyn Kalfus, "OC, State Schools Face Huge Growth," <u>Orange County Register</u>, 15 September 1990: A1, 22.

⁶ In this project the words "Hispanic" and "Mexican" are used as interchangeable in the Southern California context. While there are large immigrant Catholic communities from other countries of Central and South America, in California "Hispanic" means, predominantly "Mexican." This is not true in other areas of the United States. See, for example, <u>Presencia Nueva: Knowledge for Service and Hope. A Study of Hispanics in the Archdiocese of Newark</u> (Newark: Office of Research and Planning, Archdiocese of Newark, 1988). Citing 1980 Census figures, the Hispanic population for the Archdiocese of Newark was 2 percent Mexican, 41 percent Puerto Rican, 24 percent Cuban and 33 percent from other countries.

ecclesial identity be understood within the context of Mexican Catholic experience and practice. Necessary, therefore, for the North-American minister and Church, is a posture of listening to the experience, history, and theological reflection of Mexican Catholics. Such listening is the goal of this paper. Here the results of an interview process conducted with Mexican Catholics in Santa Ana will be presented, followed by a study of religious antecedents and current theological reflection of Mexican Catholics in the United States. From these sources certain aspects of Mexican Catholicism will be noted, indicating the nature Catholicism in the Mexican community and suggesting aims for pastoral ministry within that community. Finally, the youth movement Jovenes Para Cristo will be examined as a model of pastoral organization and ministry that incorporates the aspects of Mexican Catholicism presented and successfully ministers to that experience of Catholicism.

Chapter 2

Interviews with Mexican Catholics

In studying Mexican Catholicism, this project has sought input from members of that community in Santa Ana, that reflection might be based on the articulated experience of the lived Catholic faith in the Mexican community. It is presumed that, for one for whom the Mexican culture and Spanish language are not primary, a posture of listening is essential in understanding the experience of faith and in formulating ministry in that context. Consequently an interview process was developed to seek input on aspects of Mexican Catholicism.

In the fall of 1989, a committee of seven was formed by this author to assist in developing this process. The seven are all active members of St. Joseph Church in Santa Ana who were born in Mexico. Some had done academic studies of the Hispanic community previously, others had not. At the initial meeting, the goal was presented to the committee of developing an interview process which would lead to a descriptive presentation of areas of faith experience that, through this author's ministry in the Mexican community, seemed to

¹ The seven are: Laura Enriquez Billeter, Patricia Gonzalez, Juan Guzman, Rosalinda Guzman, Mary Vega, Rudy Vega, and Yolanda Singh Villa, who left the committee after the interview questionnaire was completed. She was replaced by Manuel Guerrero and Norma Guerrero who joined to assist in conducting interviews.

present differences between Mexican Catholicism and North-American Catholicism. It was explained that the goal was not to seek input on doctrine but rather on the lived faith of the Mexican community. (The presumption was that there is not a difference in the official doctrine of Mexican Catholicism and the Catholicism of the United States. The differences seem to be, rather, in differing faith experiences and practices.)

The committee gave direction both to the areas to be studied and in the proper wording of the questions. The final result was a questionnaire for a pilot study which was conducted in the fall of 1989. Six interviews were conducted for that pilot study, the questionnaire was revised where needed, and then conducted with 34 people during spring and summer of 1990.

The criteria for those interviewed were the following: all were born in Mexico; all currently consider themselves to be Catholic; half attend Sunday Mass on a regular basis (called "church-goers"), the other half do not ("non-church-goers"); they were evenly chosen from the age groups of 18-29, 30-50, and 50 and above; and, all live in the city of Santa Ana. The aim was to seek input from those who were living

² The final breakdown of those interviewed is the following:

^{1.} Twelve from the age group 18-29, eight of whom are "church-goers," four of whom are "non-church-goers."

^{2.} Ten from the age group 30-50, five of whom are "church-goers," five of whom are "non-church-goers."

^{3.} Twelve from the age group of 50 and above, eight of whom are "church-goers," four of whom are "non-church-goers."

Mexican Catholicism as formed in Mexico rather than seek input from Mexican Americans (those born in the United States).³

For each area studied, a basic structure of questions was developed to seek responses in the first person and in the third person. Essentially the structure was: What do you experience?; What do the people experience?; What are common ways you think that this is experienced? Finally, where possible, input was sought about observable data in addition to opinions and attitudes. For example, What are the reasons for having a child baptized? Have you and the members of your family been baptized? The point being that information is communicated through what one says and what one does.

The interview sought input in three areas.⁴ The first dealt with the area of personal belief and faith experience, the experience of prayer and the place of popular religiosity in that prayer experience. How is God experienced in one's life? What are the specifics of one's prayer experiences? What is the experience of the spiritual world of the individual? What is the experience of popular religiosity, as it reflects

³ One possible bias to note in the study involves the group Jovenes Para Cristo (Youth for Christ). Those interviewed were to be chosen by the members of the committee with names provided when necessary. Eventually, members of Jovenes Para Cristo also provided thirteen names. Of the thirteen, six are "non-church-goers" and seven are "church-goers." In addition, two of the committee members are active in this group and conducted some of their interviews with members of that group. It is the belief of this author that this is actually beneficial as it allows the experience of Jovenes Para Cristo to be highlighted in the study.

⁴ See Appendix A for a copy of the interview questions.

experiences of faith and belief?

The second area concerned the experience of being Catholic within the context of the sacramental life of the Church. Here input was sought regarding the sacramental practices of the Mexican Catholic, along with explanations from the respondents concerning their understanding of the meaning of such practices.

The final area dealt with the relationship of the Mexican Catholic with the local parishes and ministers of those parishes. These three areas covered the personal experience of faith, the communal experience of faith and the experiences of ministry to that faith. For the purposes of this paper, we will concentrate on the input the interviews give concerning the first two areas; namely, the experience of personal belief and faith, including popular religious expressions (admittedly, at times quite communal), and sacramental practices.

The first area concerning the experience of faith shows three aspects of Mexican Catholicism: first, that the presence of God is felt as a real experience; second, that prayer expresses a response to that experience of relationship with God, and others important to that relationship, especially the Virgin Mary (specifically Our Lady of Guadalupe); and third, that these relationships take place within the context of an

⁵ See Appendix B for the complete text of questions and responses.

active spiritual world populated by various spirits.

To the question, "Do you feel God in your life?," all said yes. When asked, "Could you describe one or two ways that you feel God?", thirty-three did so. Representative responses were the following:

Yo siempre siento que El esta a mi lado, El siempre tiene su bendición a mi lado. (I always feel that He is at my side, He always has his blessing at my side.)

Porque nunca me siento sola. A pesar de ser viuda y con cinco hijos me ha hecho milagro. (Because I never feel alone. In spite of being a widow and with five children he has made a miracle for me.)

El esta conmigo. Me acompaña y da fortaleza en tiempos malos y también lo siento en las cosas buenas que ha creado y sigue creando en mi vida. (He is always with me. He accompanies me and gives me strength in bad times and also I feel him in the good things that he has created and continues creating in my life.)

Prayer is a common experience for the Mexican Catholic, showing that God is not only present in one's life but also an active participant in one's life. The first observation is that all answered that they prayed. Regarding the focus of prayer, those interviewed were asked if they prayed to God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin or one of the saints. In response, twenty-three said they prayed to God the Father, sixteen to Jesus, seven to the Holy Spirit, nineteen of the thirty-four to the Virgin and seven to the saints. When

asked, "Which Virgin?," nineteen said the Virgin of Guadalupe, ten said the Virgin Mary and only five said they do not pray to the Virgin (one did not answer). The experience of prayer indicates that God is supreme and real in a spirit world that has many other participants, principal among them the Virgin Mary.

For the Mexican Catholic, this spirit world is an active one, populated by spirits in addition to God and the saints. Questions were asked regarding opinions of the beliefs of others in spirits and their own belief and experience. Those interviewed were asked, "Do you think that people believe there are spirits, ghosts, or apparitions other than God and the saints?" Of the thirty-four responding, thirty-two said yes. "Do you think people believe these spirits touch their

⁶ There are many manifestations of the Virgin in Mexican Catholicism. For example: Nuestra Señora, la Virgin de Guadalupe (Our Lady, the Virgin of Guadalupe), also named La Morenita (the indigencus "Brown One" of Tepeyac, a hill in Mexico City where she is said to have appeared); Güerita de los Remedios (The White One of the Remedies) brought by the Spaniards; Nuestra Señora de Zapopan (Our Lady of Zapopan, named from a shrine on the outskirts of Guadalajara, Jalisco); and La Virgin de San Juan de los Lagos (The Virgin of San Juan de los Lagos, named from a shrine in that town in the state of Jalisco).

⁷ The Spanish here is <u>espantos</u>. That word was used after much discussion among the committee members. This was determined to be the most common word to describe spiritual apparitions not associated with God and the saints. While that word has been translated as "ghost," following <u>The American Heritage Larousse Spanish Dictionary</u>, one should refer to the responses given to these questions to see the variety of possible spiritual manifestations, from the appearance of one recently deceased to an evil force bringing death, present in the form of a bird.

lives?" Twenty-eight answered affirmatively, although six with the qualification that some believe this, though not all. When asked if they had heard of a time when a member of their family or a friend had experienced one of these spirits, twenty-seven said they had. Asked if they themselves believed in such spirits, only twenty said that they did. Nineteen said that they had not had such a spiritual experience, although fifteen reported that they had, forty-four percent of the respondents.

Some of the descriptions of these experiences are the following:

Si. Ahí en mi tierra abundaba mucho el demonio antes. Si se peleaba una pareja, se oían pasar caballos, arrastos, cadenas y hasta que se quebraban. Cuando rezan el Alabado, noche aullaba el demonio.

(Yes, where I am from the devil used to be there all the time. If a couple would fight or get in an argument, one could hear the sound of horses passing by, something dragging on the floor, the sound of chains hitting until they would break. When one would pray the 'Alabado' one could hear the devil howling at night.)

Si. Mi abuelito. El leía el brujode (a magia negra) y vio a Satanás vestido de charro y en un carruaje. Cuando le vio escapulano puesto, el charro se desapareció.

(Yes, my grandfather. He would read the "brujode" [black magic], and he saw Satan dressed like a charro [cowboy] in a carriage. When [the devil] saw that he was wearing a scapular [a religious object], the charro disappeared.)

Cuando tenía siete años, miré a mi abuela que estaba muerte. También miré a una pelota que entró sola a una cueva - apareció de ningún lado, y se metió sola. Yo estaba sola, nadie mas que yo. (When I was seven years old, I saw my dead grandmother. I also saw a ball that rolled by itself inside a cave - It appeared from nowhere,

and moved by itself. I was by myself, there was no one but me.)

Vamos al baile a otro rancho en la camonieta y vimos como una ave ó párajo pero demasiado grande. Y cuando llegamos al rancho nos encontramos con un niño muerto. Ese párajo nosotros creemos que ese párajo era la bruja y había matado el niño. (We went by truck to a dance in another town and saw something like a bird but very large. And when we arrived at the town we came across a dead boy. We believed this bird was the witch that had killed the boy.)

These responses indicate that the spirit world, in all its manifestations, is present and real to the Mexican Catholic. All feel God in their life, all pray, ninety-four percent state that belief in multiple spiritual realities is common to the Mexican Catholic, and almost half report having had such an experience.

This data shows that the Mexican Catholic experience is that of being an active participant in the world of God and various spirits. Given that experience, the next set of questions in the interview sought information regarding sacramental practices and the practices of popular religiosity, to see the role of these practices in the spiritual experience of the Mexican Catholic.

Some information regarding popular religiosity has already been presented, in the responses noted above concerning to whom one prays. There, twenty-nine of thirty-four said they prayed to the Virgin, nineteen of whom specifically identifying the Virgin of Guadalupe. When asked if they prayed to other saints, thirteen said that they did,

identifying as the various saints to whom they prayed: the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Cyprian, the Patron Santiago (of Michoacan), the White Virgin of the Remedies, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Jude Thaddeus, St. Francis of Assissi, St. Joseph, St. Martin de Porres, St. Anthony of Padua, St. George, St. Rose, the Santo Niño of Atocha (the Christ of Atocha, Zacatecas, Mexico), the Virgin of San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco, etc. Such prayer is often directed toward specific needs and based in devotion to saints associated with specific locals. As the following responses indicate:

San Antonio de Padua - para el matrimonio.
San Judas Tadeo - como muy milagroso.
San Ignacio Loyola - para que quite a la gente
mala.
(St. Anthony of Padua - for marriage, to find a
spouse.
St. Jude Thaddeus - as he does many miracles.
St. Ignatius of Loyola - that he take away bad
people.)

Sagrado Corazón - por todos los nuestros, que cuide y fortaleza.

San Francisco - por lo lindo de su oración, por sabiduria.

Asisto de los consejos en Michoacan, San Juan - por que proteja a la gente de Michoacan.

(Sacred Heart - for all of us, to care for us and strengthen us.

St. Francis - for the beauty of his prayer and wisdom.

Presence of counsel in Michoacan, St. John - because he protects the people of Michoacan.)

Escucha cuando uno le esta hablando (Zaguayo, Mich.)

-A la Güerita de los Remedios - cuando nos aliviamos de bebe, le rezamos a rosarios cada lunes. (Tetolán, Mich.)

-San Ignacio de Loyola - como San Cipriano (hacen muchos milagros) - que retire el demonio, que retire a los malos vecinos se pone su estampita cerca de la puerta.

-San Judas Tadeo - cuando una vecina te esta molestando se le pide fuera de tu casa (no en tu casa porque si le pides en tu casa se amiga mas es la vecina) para que la retire que calle a las personas que le tienen envidia a uno, que le ayude a encontrar trabajo a tener mas dinero.

-A la Virgin de los Lagos - se lo pide igual a los santos: que nos cuide, que retire a los malos vecinos.

-Santo Cristo Milagroso - se le piden milagros y cuando pasan se le junta limosna, o se viste no de 'güarecita' [indita] y se va visitando. [Cerca de Uruapan, Mich.].

(He listens when one is speaking to him [Zaguayo, Mich.]

-To the White Virgin of the Remedies - when we give birth, we pray a rosary to her every Monday. [Tetolán, Mich.]

-St. Ignatius of Loyola - like St. Cyprian [they do many miracles] - that the devil goes away, or that bad neighbors go away one puts his image near the front door.

-St. Jude Thaddeus - when a neighbor is annoying you, you pray to him outside of your house [not inside the house because if you pray to him in your house the neighbor will persist more strongly] that the neighbor go away, that the people who are envious of one will be quiet, that he will help you find work and have more money. -To the Virgin of Los Lagos - one prays to her just like to the saints: that she care for us, that bad neighbors go away.

-Holy Christ the Miracle Worker - one asks for miracles, and when they take place, one asks for a donation, or one dresses not as "a little indian" and go visiting. [Near Uruapan, Mich.]).

While these quotes represent a minority of those who responded to the questionnaire, they do reflect a strong presence of popular religiosity in the Mexican Catholic faith experience, along with two of its characteristics: that is it often connected with a specific local and that it is often focused on a specific need. Although, according to the interview, the minority responded that they pray to the saints (in answer to the question, "If you pray to a saint, to which

saint or saints do you pray?", thirty-eight percent responded that they prayed to a saint), nineteen said they pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and ten others to the Virgin Mary; thus eighty-five percent include a relationship with Mary, especially as Our Lady of Guadalupe, as part of their faith experience.

One further manifestation of the importance of popular religiosity is seen in the religious articles common in many homes. In answer to the question, "What religious articles do you have in your home?", thirty-two of thirty-four reported the presence of various religious articles. While sometimes the article is the Bible or assorted prayer books, ninety-four percent indicated that the religious articles are statues, pictures, prints, candles, etc., all visible representing God and the saints. This indicates that the religious expression is concrete and visible. The Mexican Catholic seeks to express his/her spirituality in concrete, often visible ways; the presence of God and the saints are likewise made manifest in visible ways. Various examples of the religious articles in the home:

Retrato de La Virgin de Guadalupe, Retrato del Corazón de Jesús, Rosarios, velas. (Painting of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Painting of the Heart of Jesus, Rosaries, 8 candles.)

Imagen de la Virgin de Guadalupe, un crucifijo, el divino Rostro, un rosario, la biblia y algunos

⁸ Often, large rosaries are hung on the wall in the home, therefore not being used for personal prayer but being part of the religious art in the home.

libros religiosos, imagen de la Ultima Cena, imagen de dos caminos (uno del infierno y otro de Dios), imagen de San Francisco, Virgin de... (Image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, a crucifix, the Divine Face [of Jesus], a rosary, the bible and other religious books, image of the Last Supper, image of the two ways [one of hell and the other of God], image of Saint Francis, Virgin of...)

Biblia, Rosario, imagen del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, La Virgin de Guadalupe, El Santo Niño, y un crucifijo.

(Bible, Rosary, image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Virgin of Guadalupe, The Holy Child, and a crucifix.)

These various responses, describing prayer experiences, the object of prayer and the prominent place of religious articles in the home demonstrate that popular religiosity forms an important part of the faith experience of the Mexican Catholic. What can be seen is that the emphasis on local religion, present in devotion to the saints and the Virgin in her various representations, is joined to more universal Catholic faith experiences, in religious articles seen in the presence the Bible, the rosary and of the representations of Jesus. Both of these religious experiences, however, are expressed in concrete and visible ways. In addition to personal prayer experiences and popular religiosity, the interviews show that Mexican Catholic faith experience is also centered in sacramental practices. The interviews sought input regarding their understanding of the sacraments and specifics regarding their sacramental practices.

 $^{^9}$ This is a statue of the boy Jesus.

questions were divided, first into questions concerning understanding of sacramental practices and, second, those practices themselves. The first set of questions asked the understanding of the reasons for participation in the sacraments. For example, "What are the reasons for having a child baptized?" Before seeing the reasons given to the questions, it is important to note that the overwhelming majority of the respondents utilized an active religious language to describe their understanding of their sacramental practices. Thirty-three of thirty-four gave reasons for having a child baptized. Thirty-one gave reasons why a child should receive first communion and twenty-seven gave reasons for receiving communion as an adult. Thirty-three gave reasons for attending mass, as did thirty when asked how often one should go to confession. Thirty-one of thirty-four gave reasons for marriage in the Church, thirty-two explained reasons for choosing godparents/sponsors (padrinos y madrinas) for Such religious language evidences baptism. sacramental awareness and efficacious transmission of the various rationales for sacramental practices.

Regarding the content of these answers, when asked the reason for infant baptism, representative answers were as follows:

Porque al bautizarnos somos libres de pecado y por que asi fue la misión de Cristo por que nos libera de nuestros pecados.

(Because to baptize us we are free from sin and because such was the mission of Christ to free us from our sins.)

Para introducirlo a la Iglesia y borrarle el pecado original. Empezar el proceso de hacer los Cristianos.

(To introduce it to the Church and erase original sin. To begin the process of making them Christians.)

Padrino en causa que se mueran sus padres. Para que reconozca a Dios.

Para que los santos lo vigilen mientras no sabe rezar la criatura.

([That it have a] Godfather in the case the parents die.

In order to recognize God.

So that the saints will guard it while the child does not know how to pray.)

Porque recibe al Espíritu Santo y para convertirlo Cristiano y Católico.

(To receive the Holy Spirit and to change it to be a Christian and Catholic.)

Para que sea perdonado por el pecado original.
Para que sea recibido en la Iglesia como cristiano
y para que tenga la bendición de Dios.
(To be forgiven of original sin.
To be received into the Church as a Christian and
to receive the blessing of God.)

What are the reasons for having a person make his or her first Communion?

Es otra etapa de la vida Cristiana - significa que el niño o niña sabe ciertos conceptos de Dios y la Iglesia y comprende lo suficiente para poder empezar a recibir la hostia.

(It is another step of the Christian life - it means that the boy or girl knows certain concepts of God and the Church and understands it sufficiently to be able to begin to receive the host.)

Para recibir el cuerpo y la sangre de Dios. También porque lo manda la Iglesia. (To receive the body and blood of God. Also because the Church orders it.)

Para seguir a Jesús. (To follow Jesus.)

What are the reasons for receiving communion as an adult?

Para que los fortaleza espiritualmente, porque Dios instituto este sacramento y para seguir su ejemplo.

(In order to strengthen them spiritually, because God instituted this sacrament and to follow his example.)

Que esté libre de pecados y que tenga conciencia de los pecados cometidos.

(To be free of sin and to have consciousness of the sins [I have] committed.)

Para reconciliarnos con nuestro Padre Dios por todas nuestras ofensas.

(To reconcile ourselves with our Father God for all our offenses.)

What are the reasons for going to Mass every Sunday?

Para renovar la fé y comunión con Dios. Para oir el mensaje de Dios, para convivir con nuestra Iglesia.

(To renew the faith and communion with God. To hear the message of God, to live together with our Church.)

Lo manda la Iglesia. Para visitar la casa de Dios, rezar y oir su Palabra.

(The Church orders it. To visit the house of God, pray and hear his Word.)

Para cumplir con los mandamientos. (To follow the commandments.)

Para aprender de la Palabra de Dios y compartir la Eurcaristía.

(To learn from the Word of God and share the Eucharist.)

Porque nuestros padres nos enseñan que se tiene que ir a misa cada domingo.

(Because our parents teach us that one has to go Mass every Sunday.)

How often should a person go to confession?

Cada vez que lo sienta necesario. (Every time that one feels it is necessary.)

Cada vez que se ha tenido un pecado mayor. (Every time that one has had a major sin.)

Por lo menos una vez al año. (At the least one time a year.)

Cada dos meses o cada mes, dependiendo de como se sienta la persona o como se siente uno. (Every two months or every month, depending on how the person feels, or how one feels.)

What are the reasons for being married in the Church?

Recibir el sacramento del matrimonio ante los ojos de Dios. Recibir la gracia de Dios. (To receive the sacrament of marriage before the eyes of God. To receive the grace of God.)

Es como si la unión la hiciera Dios; como si la unión fuera de espíritu y no solamente en un papel.

(It is so that God would make the union, so that the union would be of spirit and not only on a paper.)

Para obtener la bendición del Señor en nuestro hogar.

(To obtain the blessing of the Lord in our home.)

Para no estar viviendo en pecado. (To not be living in sin.)

Porque es la ley de Dios. (Because it is the law of God.)

Porque la gracia de Dios debe de estar en algo tan serio como lo es el matrimonio - para que Dios esté en el hogar de la pareja y les ayude; porque es uno de los sacramentos, y la Iglesia lo requiere. Claro también por cosas no tan esotéricas, como las que la Iglesia y los sacerdotes miran mal a la pareja porque están viviendo en pecado, y porque tradicionalmente la cultura hispana lo requiere por esas mismas razones. Mi madre me cuenta que en Mexíco un Padre (sacerdote) no va a la casa de algún padre de familia si es que tienen a un hijo viviendo allí que no está casado por la Iglesia. No van ni aunque la persona esta muriendo y necesite confesión. Pienso que esto esta muy mal. (Because the grace of God ought to be in something as serious as marriage is - so that God will be in the home of the couple and help them; because it is one of the sacraments, and the Church requires it. Of course, also for things not so esoteric, such as reasons that the Church and the priests look badly upon the couple because they are living in sin, and because traditionally the hispanic culture requires it for these same reasons. My mother told me that in Mexico a Father (priest) does not go to the house of a father of a family if there is a child living there that is not married by the Church. They do not go even though the person is dying and needs confession. I think that this is very bad.)

Who is chosen to be the sponsors of these sacraments?

A amigos o familiares. (Friends or relatives.)

Se deberían de escoger a gentes que son Católicos practicantes, cerca de la Iglesia y que fueran buen ejemplo, pero creo que la mayoría de gente escoge a amigos, aunque no quedan la descripción de arriba.

(They should be chosen from people who are practicing Catholics, close to the Church and who would be a good example, but I believe that the majority of people choose from friends, even though they do not keep with the above description.)

A alguien que tu estimes. (Someone who you admire.)

Why are they chosen?

Porque es el mejor amigo de la persona o porque tiene dinero.

(Because he is the best friend of the person or because he has money. 10)

Porque creo que son los mejores para el trabajo que van a tener.

(Because I believe that they are the best for the work they are going to have.)

¹⁰ Often it is understood that the <u>padrinos</u> have financial responsibilities for aspects of the ceremony.

Porque uno quiere lo mejor para usar como ejemplo, alguien que pueda dar buenos consejos como padrinos de estos sacramentos. (Because one wants the best to use as an example, someone who can give good advice as godparents of these sacraments.)

What are the sponsors' responsibilities for each of these sacraments? (Here note that thirty-one of thirty-four presented explanations for the responsibilities of sponsors for baptism, nineteen for first communion, seventeen for confirmation and twenty-four for marriage.)

Baptism?

Mirar que los niños crezcan en una vida cristiana. (See that the children grow in a Christian life.)

Como de un segundo padre. Inculcarle al ahijado los sacramentos de Dios y que lleve una vida cristíana.

(As that of a second parent. To inculcate the godchild in the sacraments of God and that it leads a Christian life.)

Después de los padres son los padrinos para guiarlos por buen camino y fe. (After the parents, there are the godparents to guide them [godchildren] by the good way and faith.)

First Communion?

No es necesario. (It is not necessary.)

Asegurarse que los niños vayan a comulgar cada Domingo y sigan su fe. (To assure that the children go to receive communion each Sunday and that they follow their faith.)

Enseñarle a rezar el niño y guiarlo en cómo hacer su confesión ante el sacerdote. (That they teach the child to pray and guide him in the way to go to confession before the priest.) Igual que arriba y que ayuden al niño y lo lleven a la Iglesia Católica aunque los padres no vayan. (The same as above [for baptism] and that they help the child and that they take him to the Catholic Church even though the parents do not go.)

Confirmation?

Lo mismo del bautismo. (The same as baptism.)

Como segundo bautismo, para acabar los sacramentos de la iglesia, para que los padrinos lo instruyan por si faltan los padrinos de bautismo. (Like a second baptism, to finish the sacraments of the Church, so that the sponsors instruct the godchild if the godparents of baptism have faulted in this.)

Dar el rosario y la vela y el libro. (To give the rosary and the candle and the book. [Items given to the godchild to be carried in the ceremony.])

Marriage?

Ayudar a la pareja para que tengan una vida cristiana donde siempre esté Dios, ayudarlos si tienen problemas, aconsejarlos. (To help the couple that they have a Christian life where God is always present, to help them if they have problems, to advise them.)

Echarles el lazo. (To put on the <u>lazo</u> [rope signifying the union of marriage].)

Para que velan por los problemas de la pareja, que les ayuden espiritual y económicamente y que platiquen con ellos. (To watch for the problems of the couple, that they help them spiritual(ly) and economically and talk with them.)

These responses were presented to show the understanding of the respondents to the various sacraments, the responsibilities of their practice and the network of relationships, established through the sponsors, in supporting

sacramental practices. These responses evidence a faith experience that finds sacramental participation as central to beginning, expressing and sustaining one's relationship with God.

When asked about reception of the sacraments, the respondents were asked to speak about their practices and those of their families. The responses indicate that all were baptized, and all but one reported that the members of their families were as well. Eighty-five percent of the respondents, or members of their immediate family, had received First Communion. It was also eighty-five percent who responded that they or a family member had been confirmed, as was true for having received the sacrament of confession. Of the thirty-four respondents, only five responded consistently that they or their family members did not receive sacraments other than baptism.

The statistics changed when asking about marriage in the Church. Of the thirty-four respondents, nine are currently single. Of the twenty-five remaining, twelve are married in the Church, ten are married through a civil ceremony and one couple is living together. Two did not answer this question. The result is that fifty-two percent of the respondents have married in the Church.

The numbers changed as well when asked about present participation in Sunday Mass. Fifty percent said they attend mass on a regular basis. Forty-seven percent (sixteen of

thirty-four) report that they receive communion when attending mass. Representative explanations for not receiving communion while attending mass are the following:

Muchas personas no comulgan porque no se sienten que merecen comulgar. Otras piensan que estan viviendo en pecado y no pueden comulgar. (Many persons do not receive communion because they do not feel that they merit receiving communion. Others think that they are living in sin and are not able to receive communion.)

Cuando me siento con pecados grande o mortal me debo de confesar primero y luego comulgar. (When I feel I have big or mortal sins, I ought to confess first and then go to communion.)

Porque no me confieso, o porque me voy al baile en la noche y tomo. (Because I do not confess, or because I go to a dance in the evening and I drink.)

Finally, how often do the members of the families of the respondents go to confession? Seven reported going often, three said twice a year and another six once a year. Another three reported that some members of their family went often, other members never. This shows fifty-five percent of the respondents describing some regular use of this sacrament. Fourteen of the thirty-four, or forty-one percent, said that they never went to confession and have no knowledge of regular confessions by members of their family. The reports of sacramental practice support the explanations for the importance of the sacraments. While there is always a variance between one's ideal and practice, the statistics represent strong sacramental participation, at least at times, in the life of the Mexican Catholic. It is especially instructive to

see the high incidence of infant baptism, coupled with the reasons given for that practice, to see central role of sacramental practices in the faith life of the Mexican Catholic. 11

These interviews show that the faith of the Mexican Catholic is a faith expressed both through the popular religiosity of the people and their sacramental practices. Evident in both experiences is a spirituality in which God is real, the power of evil is as well, and the relationship between the individual and the spiritual world is immediate and concrete. The Mexican Catholic is a participant in an active spiritual world, in which one is to walk with God, by living a sacramental life, and walk with the saints God sends, primarily Our Lady of Guadalupe. This study will now turn to a brief review of pertinent literature in examining the nature of Mexican Catholicism, to present a context for the faith experiences described above. Its antecedents will be examined, some contemporary reflection upon Mexican well as Catholicism.

¹¹ Both Allan Figueroa Deck and Virgilio Elizondo speak to the centrality of baptism, noting that the reason for baptism and the experience of infant baptism differs in Mexican Catholicism and American Catholicism. This will be examined in Chapter 3 below.

Chapter 3

Review of Pertinent Literature

A review of literature appropriate to the study of Mexican Catholicism leads to a study of both its antecedents and current theological reflection within Mexican Catholicism. The antecedents of Mexican Catholicism are seen in the religious traditions of sixteenth-century Spain and in the pre-Columbian Nahuatl¹ faith. Three works will form the basis of our study of these antecedents. They are: Local Religion in Sixteenth-Century Spain, by William A. Christian, Jr.; Aztec Thought and Culture: A Study of the Ancient Nahuatl Mind, by Miguel Leon-Portilla; and, The Slippery Earth: Nahua-Christian Moral Dialogue in Sixteenth-Century Mexico, by Louise M. Burkhart.

The review of contemporary literature will look to the Mexican-American Catholic authors Allan Figueroa Deck and Virgilio Elizondo. Their works to be considered are: The Second Wave: Hispanic Ministry and the Evangelization of

¹ Present day Mexico is the mixture of the Spanish with various indigenous peoples. These people were numerous, their cultures varied and distinct. While acknowledging such diversity, and the rich antecedents of Mexican Catholicism as a consequence, this study is limited to examining the Nahuatl, that culture and language of the Central Plain of Mexico (present day Mexico City and its environs). This is the culture of the Aztecs, the rulers of central Mexico at the time of the Spanish Conquest. It was within this culture that the initial, and formative, evangelization by the Spanish missionaries took place.

<u>Cultures</u>, by Deck; and, by Elizondo, <u>Galilean Journey: The Mexican-American Promise</u>; <u>The Future is Mestizo: Life Where Cultures Meet</u>; and, <u>La Morenita: Evangelizer of the Americas</u>.

Religious Antecedents

The Spaniards arrived in Mexico in 1519 and had successfully conquered the central plain of Mexico by August 1521. Catholic priests travelled with them and the their missionary motive was central to expedition. Evangelization of the indigenous people began in 1523 with the work of the first Franciscans, but a systematic focus began with the arrival of the "Twelve Apostles" of Mexican Catholic history, namely the first twelve Franciscan missionaries brought to Mexico, in May of 1524. This began the period of the initial formative evangelization of Mexico which was accomplished by the three primary mendicant communities, the Franciscans, Dominicans and Augustinians, ending in the year 1572.2 This evangelization was of a pre-Tridentine Spanish Catholicism, as the Council of Trent was convened during the years 1545-1564, and was not implemented in Spanish countries until much later. Allan Deck sees this as important in understanding the differences between Mexican Catholicism and North-American Catholicism, especially in understanding the

² For a brief outline of the conquest of Mexico, see Charles Gibson, <u>Spain in America</u> (New York: Harper and Row, 1966). For a detailed study of the "spiritual conquest" of Mexico, see Robert Ricard, <u>The Spiritual Conquest of Mexico: An Essay on the Apostolate and the Evangelizing Methods of the Mendicant Orders in New Spain, 1523-1572 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1966).</u>

roots of popular religiosity in the Mexican Catholic experience.

One especially notable difference is that the Catholicism of Latin America including Mexico was set in place <u>before</u> the decrees of the Council of Trent were promulgated. The sense of Catholicism and Church order that was transplanted onto the Latin American continent was fundamentally medieval. . . . These approaches reflected a less centralized and standardized kind of Catholicism than that which the Council of Trent was to embrace and promote in Europe. . .

The implications of the pre-Tridentine origins of Mexican Catholicism and post-Tridentine orientation of American Catholicism are many. One of them is that the popular devotions of the Mexican people are a curious blend of medieval, baroque, and indigenous practices. . . .

It was only in the nineteenth century, especially through the efforts of the Jesuits and other European-based religious orders, that Rome began to exert steady and direct influence on Church life in Latin America. Upon the ancient, more pluralistic pre-Tridentine Catholicism of the popular masses a more standardized and monolithic version of Catholicism was being impressed. This process made an impact especially on the urban middle class. Its influence on the great rural masses was much less. And it is the great rural masses who have and are immigrating to the United States.

Mexican Catholicism, therefore, has a rootedness and popular character that Anglo American Catholicism is lacking.³

The popular religious character of medieval Spanish Catholicism is the focus of the work of William A. Christian, Jr. entitled, <u>Local Religion in Sixteenth-Century Spain</u>. In his introduction, Christian notes that there are two levels to Catholicism:

³ Deck, <u>Second Wave</u>, 55-56.

that of the Church Universal, based on the sacraments, the Roman liturgy, and the Roman calendar; and a local one based on particular sacred places, images, and relics, locally chosen patron saints, idiosyncratic ceremonies, and a unique calender built up from the settlement's own sacred history.⁴

Christian studies the level of the local religious experience in sixteenth-century Spain and his study illuminates that pre-Tridentine Spanish Catholicism which is one of the antecedents of Mexican Catholicism, as Deck notes.

Christian recognizes four levels of local religiosity in sixteenth-century Spain. The first level was that of the old stratum of local saints. Devotion to these saints is focused on specific, usually urban, sites where their remains, or central relics of them, were kept and protected. The second level was Marian devotion, becoming strong in the twelfthcentury, which focused on images or shrines built in various The absence of a site of burial allowed a multiplicity of images and shrines and therefore, locations of worship. These images were often located in various rural sites. The third level was that of devotion to specific saints who specialists. addressing were specific needs or experiences. The fourth level was that of devotion to Christ as the worker of miracles, emphasized especially in the last years of the sixteenth-century. Christian's work is centered on the study of the spiritual practices related to Marian

William A. Christian, Jr., <u>Local Religion in Sixteenth-Century Spain</u> (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981), 3.

devotion and the specialist saints. He shows that these practices had two general characteristics that would indicate their pre-Tridentine Catholic character: they were localized rather than centralized or universalized and, they were centered in the laity, not under clerical control. These characteristics are seen in the experience of vows and shrines for the sixteenth-century Spanish Catholic.

Vows (votos), both individual and collective, were responses to fears and insecurities of peasant rural life. Spiritual remedies were sought to the various plagues, droughts and other natural disasters. "Individuals and communities patiently searched for divine helpers and set up contracts with saints to ward off present and future dangers." These contracts took the form of vows to complete specific spiritual practices, often taking the form of, but not limited to, the building and maintenance of a shrine. Clerical involvement took place only when the vow was not fulfilled. Then the priest was sought either to commute the obligation of the vow or pardon the individual for not fulfilling the vow.

Vows were made to specific saints for specific needs. These saints were generally chosen due to the date when the need was encountered. For example, if a natural disaster occurred on a specific day, a vow to the saint of that day would be observed, and the observance institutionalized

⁵ Christian, <u>Local Religion</u>, 19.

through the decision of an entire village or through the formation of a brotherhood to continue the observance of the of the vow.

The villagers saw the coincidence of a natural disaster with a certain saint's day as a clear sign. Hail, still a scourge of wheat and vine on the meseta, was particularly seen as a sign that devotion was not being accorded where it was due. Thus when the villagers of Brea (Madrid), ever attentive to signals from on high, noted that it hailed several years in a row on Saint Anne's Day, they instituted a vow to observe her vigil. ("Saint Anne's Eve is observed because two or three years consecutively hail fell on the vines on Our Lady Saint Anne's Day.") Conceivably suffering from the very same storms, the nearby village of Buges (Madrid) set up the custom of giving a public dinner, called a caridad, on Saint Anne's Day. 6

The dynamic for these vows was not only that of seeking assistance from these spiritual helpers through their intercessions. The people saw the saint on whose feast the various disasters occurred as somehow connected with the misfortune. At times the saint was angry and needed to be placated, at other times it was simply seeking greater devotion. While vows were also made to Mary, she was never seen as the source of misfortune as anger was never ascribed to her. She was seen as a generalist, her assistance invoked for the general needs encountered in life. When a specific tragedy occurred, additional assistance was sought from other saints, other spiritual helpers. Describing this from an example that took place in Puebla de Montalbán, Christian

⁶ Christian, Local Religion, 33.

writes:

the two-layered system of advocates in use. Mary was already an advocate in Puebla de Montalbán. But because of the new problem of insect pests, the townspeople wanted a new, perhaps specialized helper, for whom they were willing to make new commitments in devotion. Also, since Mary was already an acknowledged helper, and the insects had come to town in spite of her, she presumably needed reinforcement. . . . Apparently she was considered a general helper, and had been for a considerable time. New problems necessitated additional helpers. The second state of the second second

Finally, it is important to recognize the faith context for making and carrying out the vows.

Faith per se was not a factor in these consultations with saints. Moving from saint to saint in time of need, people did not view the desired outcome when it finally occurred as a confirmation of fundamental beliefs so much as proof of the intercession of a particular saint. The occurrence of a cloudburst during a petitionary ceremony was not interpreted — as it would be today — as confirmation of the existence of divine power. That was taken for granted; the drought, too, was evidence of divine power. Rather, it showed just whom to turn to in the future in such matters, who was helping out the town in the heavenly court. 8

Chapels and shrines were a significant part of the spirituality of vows as the vow to build a chapel was one of the most important vows that could be made. Furthermore, these chapels were the site for the annual celebrations of the specific saint as well as the headquarters for the brotherhoods formed to build and maintain the chapel in fulfillment of the vow. Christian distinguishes between

⁷ Christian, <u>Local Religion</u>, 50.

⁸ Christian, Local Religion, 65.

chapels and shrines as the latter was a chapel that attracted devotion from more than one village. These shrines were overwhelmingly dedicated to Mary, specifically attached to a local, specific devotion (generally called Our Lady of such and such a place). These devotions were

qualitatively different from that accorded to other saints. These chapels were used for general relief from many problems, especially curing the lame, the halt, and the blind; they were used not only by the community, but also by groups of communities and by individuals. The buildings were more likely to be at a greater distance from the town center than the other chapels. . . . [T]hey represented a higher, more permanent level of advocacy than the saints of the local chapels. It was at these special chapels that miracles took place and votive offerings were left.9

The location of the shrine was often attached to the legend of a Marian apparition¹⁰ or the discovery of a sacred image of Mary at the site. With the discovery of a sacred image, the shrine was built at the location of that discovery. The image itself provided proof of the sacred character of the location. With the apparitions, the legend itself provided the proof of the divine intention for the site, especially important in convincing authorities of the authenticity of the apparition.¹¹ "The legend thereby became a dramatic tale in

⁹ Christian, Local Religion, 73.

¹⁰ Christian treats this phenomenon at length in his work Apparitions in Late Medieval and Renaissance Spain (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981).

According to Christian, the veracity of legends and apparitions should be respected as

a caveat against excessive skepticism in regard to the legends. That most of them were stereotyped or

which the poor and the young, with the help of the Virgin, were vindicated in the face of the skepticism of the powerful."12

The location of the shrine indicated a rural, local focus. As has been stated, shrines were built on the site of the discovery of the image or the location of the apparition. These mostly took place in rural areas, especially places in the topography where elements of nature intersected; a spring, a special tree, a mountain. This developed a geographical focus as the devotion was to Mary of "This-Place." This geographical focus affirmed the local character of the shrine and the spirituality associated with the shrine, as each devotion accented different attributes or characteristics associated with the need of the specific place or the identity of the people to that place. The shrines are, therefore, in the words of Christian, "the quintessential institutions of local religion." 13

Christian concludes this work noting the beginning of the Tridentine reforms in reference to Spanish local religion in the latter part of the sixteenth-century. Essentially Trent

derivative by no means rules out the discovery of images or the historical phenomenon of apparitions. Real discoveries and visions were stereotyped: people organized these experiences into known patterns. . . . Findings of images did occur; so did apparitions. Local Religion, 89-90.

¹² Christian, Local Religion, 81.

¹³ Christian, Local Religion, 125.

religion through sought to control local increased centralization of religious practices, both sacramental and devotional, with the devotional changing to loose some of its strongly local character. Clerical authority in reference to the faith practices of the people also increased, with added norms for authenticating reports of miraculous apparitions and limits placed on the devotional practices associated with the shrines. Christian notes, however, that in Spain the need for reform of abuses was less evident due to the absence of Protestant criticism of such practices and their abuses. Also, the reforms left the core of the devotional practices, namely the vow and the patron, untouched. Consequently, both before and after Trent, Spanish Catholicism was strongly local in character, expressed through the popular religiosity of the people. For the purposes of this study, it is important to note Catholic evangelization was taking place in Mexico for almost seventy-five years before any of the Tridentine reforms began in Spain and Mexico. And, even with such reforms, the essential experience of local religion continued to be central to their Catholic experience, thereby being formative of Mexican Catholicism.

Two quotes from Christian regarding such emphasis on local religion and its support in the Spanish context (in contrast to other Catholic countries) are instructive.

Local places, saints, and times differed from, but only occasionally conflicted with, the set proposed by Rome and the diocese. . . Rome proposed a sacred place - the parish church; a set

of saints, especially Mary and the Apostles; and sacred times - Sundays, Lent, the obligatory liturgical feasts. The only conflicts came when the town celebrated one of its own saints at the expense of the exigencies of the Roman calendar. But essentially the two cycles, pantheons, and sacred geographies could easily be melded. The Catholic Reformation, among other things, ensured that on those few occasions when the two systems came into conflict, the Roman one would win out. To do this it made sure that the lay operators of the local religious system were subject to the authority of the parish priest, and that lay religiosity, in its sight, was reputable - its saints and relics real, their power genuine. The net effect was to strengthen local religion which, as a result, has in Catholic countries largely survived to the present day. 14

The Catholic Reformation affirmed the local side of religion and merely tried to correct what it saw as its excesses. The history of Catholicism in practice, both before and after the sixteenth century is a constant process of new agents commonality devotions creating a boundaries of place and nation, and a constant adaptation and cooptation of the general agents and devotions for local purposes. As long as religion was tied into the landscape, with specially prized images in specially sacred places; as long as true sources of grace were pieces of bone and specific bodies in graves; and as long as there was the notion that the saints could have especially favored relations with particular communities - doctrines all affirmed at Trent - localism, and nationalism would be with the Church. In this sense the Catholic Reformation did not drastically suppress "popular" religion. The essential components of local religiosity remained the same in Spain, the heartland and model of the reform. In part the difference between New Castile and, say, France, has to do with the extent to which Castilian Catholicism was already under clerical control by the sixteenth century. . . . When people did not live in the country, but rather apart from it, their potentially deviant relations with natural forces could be channeled more easily into orthodox waters. In much of France . . . there was more for

¹⁴ Christian, Local Religion, 177.

the Catholic Reformation to reform. And in Spain there was not, as in France, the long-term presence of Protestantism to serve as an incentive for a particularly rigid diocesan supervision. 15

Spanish Catholicism was a local religion sustained by popular religious practices that stood side-by-side with the sacramental. That was the Catholicism the Spanish brought to Mexico and to which the indigenous people of Mexico were evangelized. Such local character continued after Trent, (with a strength in Spanish countries) which differed from those countries that formed the basis of North American Catholicism, as Christian has explained above. This Spanish Catholicism is, therefore, a central antecedent in the formation of Mexican Catholicism and presents an important context for the experience of its popular religiosity and the relationship of such religiosity with sacramental practices. Such emphasis on the expression of faith experience through popular religiosity and sacramental practice was evidenced through the responses to the interview process, indicating that the influence of this historical background of Spanish Catholicism was formative for Mexican Catholicism.

This Spanish Catholicism was brought to a people with a rich religious heritage. Louise M. Burkhart, in her work The Slippery Earth, explores the relationship of these two

¹⁵ Christian, Local Religion, 179-80.

religious experiences. 16 It is to this study we now turn.

Burkhart's study is of the Nahuatl faith in contrast to Christianity, with an emphasis on their moral ethics. Naturally, such ethical perspectives reflect theological beliefs, providing a point of entry to another religious teaching and experience that is also an antecedent of Mexican Catholicism.

Mexican Catholicism was initially formed as Spanish evangelization began in the Central Plain of Mexico (modern day Central Mexico - - Mexico City and environs). There the Spanish encountered an association of tribes, the most powerful of which was the Aztec. Some of these tribes were united politically, others were in a state of perpetual war. Each, however, shared a common language and cultural matrix, based on their ancient Toltec antecedents. That language and culture is know as the Nahuatl and it exists as a language and culture to this day. 17

Burkhart notes both differences and similarities in the religious beliefs of the Nahuatl and the sixteenth-century Spaniard. Both saw the human as "dwelling at the center of a vibrant universe where struggles of cosmic scale acted

¹⁶ Louise M. Burkhart, <u>The Slippery Earth: Nahua-Christian Moral Dialogue in Sixteenth-Century Mexico</u> (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1989).

¹⁷ See James Taggert, <u>Nahuatl Myth and Social Structure</u> (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1983).

themselves out."¹⁸ Christianity saw this struggle as that between good and evil, understood through an Augustinian theodicy which saw good as the absolute, evil as its complete negation, and the aim of morality being the overcoming of evil by doing good. Augustinian Christianity conceived the struggle between good and evil as one between ontological and moral absolutes. Burkhart sees this as an analytic dualism, which essentially allows no synthesis between the opposites of good and evil.

In contrast, Nahuatl theology presents a dialectical dualism in which opposites are united in a unity or synthesis. This dialectical dualism ultimately means that Nahuatl theology is monist. For the Nahuatl, a single divine principle (teotl) was responsible for all reality, including all positive and negative aspects.

It was a polytheist monism: that is, the divine principle manifested itself in multiple forms, some ambivalent, some expressing opposite principles in their different manifestations (Russel 1977:251). 19 More accurate would be Klor de Alva's term teoyoism (1979:7) (from teoyotl, the abstract form of teotl), since teotl could manifest itself in ritual objects, images, and human-deity impersonators - forms not necessarily consistent with the Western conception of the deity. 20

With Nahuatl thought, negative forces were in a

¹⁸ Burkhart, 34.

¹⁹ See the bibliography for works by Jeffrey Burton Russell, from whom Burkhart derives her analysis of the contrast between Augustinian and Nahuatl theologies.

²⁰ Burkhart, 37.

dialectical relationship with the good. These forces were not in ontological opposition to goodness, and evil was not viewed as a turning away from good. Rather, both evil and good were components of the cosmos. Instead of viewing this cosmos ultimately as a great chain of Being, reality was process and movement. Evil was part of the dialectic that was essential for movement. "Creative, ordering forces and destructive, chaotic forces were two sides of the same coin, each dependent upon the other for its functioning." As such, both were part of a larger pattern in which "(e)ntropic forces eroded order, but they were themselves fertile and energizing, providing the substance for new establishments of order." 22

The balance between order and chaos was the creative tension that enabled movement. For the Nahuatl, the conflict between good and evil, and the solution to the problem these present, was not the basic religious problem. As evil was an intrinsic element in the cosmos, involved as one force in creation and regeneration, it presented no logical or religious problem. Their problem was to discover the necessary and appropriate balance between order and chaos. This balance would ensure cultural continuity and survival while admitting enough of the energizing forces of chaos to ensure the regeneration of process and movement. Chaos was a source of life so that contact with it must be maintained. Complete

²¹ Burkhart, 37.

²² Burkhart, 37.

chaos, however, meant personal and corporate destruction.

Balance was therefore necessary, achieved personally and
morally through the Nahuatl moral code and achieved cosmically
through their corporate religious practices.

For Burkhart, this leads to a study of Nahuatl moral thought. Her position is that the Nahuatl emphasized a practical theodicy, that they did not explore the notion of evil in the abstract sense, but treated questions of good and bad as aspects of the balance between order and chaos, lived concretely in the moral sphere.

While Nahuatl is replete with terms expressing disorder and decay, it has no word for evil in the abstract sense. Terms for good and bad, right and wrong exist but are relatively concrete. "Good" was usually translated as <u>cualli</u>, derived from the passive of the verb cua, 'to eat.' A second term used to mean "good" or "right" was yectli, literally meaning something finished or completed (Andrews 1975:487). Their opposites are simply their negations: acualli and avectli. These terms had moral implications in indigenous usage. Expressions such as <u>cualli invollo</u> "their hearts are good" and yecnemilice "possessor of a righteous life" seem too common and too idiomatic to be Christian inventions. However, these terms and their more abstract derivatives <u>cualiztil</u> and yectilztli "goodness," (or acualiztli and ayectiliztli "badness"), were not universal evaluative categories into which all phenomena could be placed. 23

Burkhart moves therefore to study Nahuatl moral thought and its dialogue with Christian missionary activity. Her position is that the Christian missionaries arrived with a radically different theology and, therefore, distinct moral

²³ Burkhart, 39.

world-view. Her contention is that the missionaries, in the process of using the Nahuatl language to substitute their religious horizon for the Nahuatl, by necessity perpetuated the Nahuatl as the Nahuatl language necessarily included its theological world-view. Consequently, the missionary activity in sixteenth-century Mexico was much more of a dialogue, and its results much more complicated, than has been presumed.

Burkhart studies Nahuatl theology from the perspective of the moral dialogue between Nahuatl and Christian theologies. Her conclusions demonstrate a continued presence of Nahuatl religious and moral categories in those evangelized. Before seeing those conclusions, however, it is helpful to examine more directly the Nahuatl religious myth which expresses in their religious language the dynamic of spiritual forces that comprised the spiritual world.

A central study of Nahuatl thought is the work by Miguel León-Portilla, Aztec Thought and Culture: A Study of the Ancient Nahuatl Mind, (first published as La Filosofia Nahuatl: Estudiada en sus Fuentes). 24 His thesis is that the Nahuatl sought a religious synthesis between the divine and human, which was the theme of both their myth and their philosophy. His contention is that, just prior to the Spanish Conquest, a philosophy had developed through Nahuatl poetry to explore this synthesis as the wise men (tlamatinime) were

²⁴ Miguel León-Portilla, <u>Aztec Thought and Culture: A Study of the Ancient Nahuatl Mind</u> (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963).

finding their myth inadequate to address their religious and philosophical questions. For the purposes of this study, León-Portilla's treatment of Nahuatl myth will be presented as it shows Nahuatl monism, containing within it their dialectical dualism in the balance of order and chaos. León-Portilla shows that Nahuatl philosophy has the same emphasis (which will be explored briefly), but the focus in this study will be on their myth as that was the predominant religious language of the people.

Nahuatl thought understood the origin and current existence of the universe through myths which originated in their Toltec heritage. These myths defined an elaborate cosmology in which the divine duality - - Ometéotl - - was the foundation of existence. Quetzalcóatl, the divine-human being that personified wisdom, was the agent through whom humanity, in the current age, was created. Both present the dialectical dualism within the overarching monism of Nahuatl thought.

Quoting from the <u>Annals of Cuathtitlán</u>, ²⁵ León-Portilla presents a myth describing the dualism within Ometéotl:

- 1. And it is told, it is said
- 2. that Quetzalcóatl would invoke, deifying something in the innermost heaven:
- 3. she of the starry skirt, he whose radiance envelopes things;
- 4. Lady of our flesh, Lord of our flesh;
- 5. she who is clothed in black, he who is clothed in red;

²⁵ See Appendix I of León-Portilla's work for information on his sources. The <u>Annals of Cuauhtitlán</u> were collected before 1570 and contain information from other towns in addition to <u>Cuauhtitlán</u>. León-Portilla, 193.

- 6. she who endows the earth with solidity, he who covers the earth with cotton.
- 7. And thus it was known, that toward the heavens was his plea directed,
- 8. toward the place of duality, above the nine levels of Heaven.²⁶

Quetzacóatl was the central religious figure for the Nahuatl. As a son of Ometéotl that had been incarnated in humanity, he was the personification of wisdom, the access to the central truths of Nahuatl myth. For León-Portilla, what is significant is that Quetzacóatl communicates, as noted in the quote above, the inherent dualism of the ultimate divine force - Ometéotl.

Quetzacóatl discovered that it is the dual divinity who maintains and gives order to the universe. Ometéotl, the god of duality, in his simultaneous feminine and masculine role "endows the earth with solidity," tlallamánac, and "covers the earth with cotton," tlattíchcatl... this supreme Nahuatl deity was both a masculine and feminine personification, in spite of being one entity, and was considered to be the generative nucleus and universal cosmic energy from which all life gained substance.²⁷

Ometéotl was the only divinity that existed of its own will. According to Nahuatl cosmology, he created four sons, each of whom represented the four primordial elements - - earth, wind, water and fire. A struggle for supremacy among these primordial forces explained the beginning of the universe and the ages of its history. Conflict and tension was always present, but periods of calm would begin with one of

²⁶ León-Portilla, 29.

²⁷ León-Portilla, 30-31.

the primordial forces being primary and being identified with the Sun. Such order was not permanent, however, and each age ended when war broke out again and another son, another primordial force, gained supremacy, ushering in another era.

Again, from the <u>Annals of Cuauhtitlán</u>, there is the description of the cycles of creation, with emphasis on the primordial elements as representing the various ages of this cyclical movement. Conflicts among these forces led to the Fifth age:

- 1. Here is the oral account of what is known of how the earth was founded long ago.
- 2. One by one, here are its various foundations [ages].
- 3. How it began, how the first Sun had its beginning 2513 years ago thus it is known today, the 22 of May, 1558.
- 4. This Sun, 4-Tiger, lasted 676 years.
- 5. Those who lived in this first Sun were eaten by ocelots. It was the time of the Sun 4-Tiger.
- 6. And what they used to eat was our nourishment, and they lived 676 years.
- 7. And they were eaten in the year 13.
- 8. Thus they perished and all ended. At this time the Sun was destroyed.
- 9. It was on the year 1-Reed. They began to be devoured on a day called 4-Tiger. And so with this everything ended and all of them perished.
- 10. This Sun is known as 4-Wind.
- 11. Those who lived under this second Sun were carried away by the wind. It was under the Sun 4-Wind that they all disappeared.
- 12. They were carried away by the wind. They became monkeys.
- 13. Their homes, their trees everything was taken away by the wind.
- 14. And this Sun itself was also swept away by the wind.
- 15. And what they used to eat was our nourishment.
- 16. [The date was] 12-Serpent. They lived [under this Sun] 364 years.
- 17. Thus they perished. In a single day they were carried off by the wind. They perished on a day 4-Wind.

- 18. The year of this Sun was 1-Flint.
- 19. This Sun, 4-Rain, was the third.
- 20. Those who lived under this third Sun, 4-Rain, also perished. It rained fire upon them. They became turkeys.
- 21. This Sun was consumed by fire. All their homes burned.
- 22. They lived under this Sun 312 years.
- 23. They perished when it rained fire for a whole day.
- 24. And what they used to eat was our nourishment.
- 25. [The date was] 7-Flint and the day was 4-Rain.
- 26. They who perished were those who had become turkeys.
- 27. The offspring of turkeys are now called <u>pipil-pipil</u>.
- 28. This Sun is called 4-Water; for 52 years the water lasted.
- 29. And those who lived under this fourth Sun, they existed in the time of the Sun 4-Water.
- 30. It lasted 676 years.
- 31. Thus they perished: they were swallowed by the waters and they became fish.
- 32. The heavens collapsed upon them and in a single day they perished.
- 33. And what they used to eat was our nourishment.
- 34. [The date was] 4-Flower. The year was 1-House and the day 4-Water.
- 35. They perished, and all the mountains perished.
- 36. The water lasted 52 years and with this ended their years.
- 37. This Sun, called 4-Movement, this is our Sun, the one in which we now live.
- 38. And here is its sign, how the Sun fill into the fire, into the divine hearth, there at Teotihuacán.
- 39. It was also the Sun of our Lord Quetzalcóatl in Tula.
- 40. The fifth Sun, its sign 4-Movement,
- 41. is called the Sun of movement because it moves and follows its path.
- 42. And as the elders continue to say, under this sun there will be earthquakes and hunger, and then our end shall come. 28

With this cyclical rhythm, Nahuatl thought saw attempts throughout the ages to harmonize and balance the opposing

²⁸ León-Portilla, 38-39.

forces. At the conclusion of the fourth age, each of the forces converged for another battle which resulted in a creative balance with one another. From this balance, Quetzacóatl was sent to create humanity, incorporating it into this cosmological balance, the era of the Fifth Sun.²⁹ As

Although it appears with many variations, the most familiar Nahuatl symbol is composed basically of four points - the sign for solar heat - placed about a contre . . . the number five represents the centre, and that it is also the point where heaven and earth meet . . . this five-fold figure, or quincunx, is also the precious jewel symbolizing the heart, the meeting-place of opposed principles. Thus we see united in a single sign all the characteristics of the Fifth Sun, or heavenly heart, which are also manifest in the mythology. It is obvious that the quincunx is simply the stylized representation of the square surmounted by the triangle, its centre being the apex of the pyramid reduced to a plane. (If from each of the four corners of a square we draw a line to a centre above, we obtain a pyramid.) It is clear, therefore, that not only the myth but also the symbolism . . . expresses the idea of the four primordial elements redeemed by a unifying centre, a concept which is the kernel of Nahuatl thought and which determines all its most important manifestations.

Séjourné goes on to say that this emphasis on the number five was represented in Nahuatl astronomy, architecture and religious art. One representation in art was to represent five in the form of a cross, the end points of the cross representing the four elements and the cross point of the two lines. This was naturally appealing to the Christian missionaries and substantiates Burkhart's point that Christian symbols and language did perpetuate Nahuatl mythology. She compliments Séjourné's presentation of the number five by noting (p. 74) that it also refers to disorder, for while the number five represents the balance of the opposing forces, that balance is of the forces in a dialectic dualism. It is therefore not a permanent balance.

²⁹ See Laurette Séjourné, <u>Burning Water: Thought and Religion in Ancient Mexico</u> (New York: Vangard Press, 1956), 89. Here Séjourné treats the symbolism of the number five as representing the center, and therefore balance.

each of the preceding ages ended in a cataclysm, so would the Fifth, but it could be postponed if the balance achieved in the era was maintained and the movement of the Sun which enabled the balance (note reality is never static for the Nahuatl) continued. The Aztecs moved to postpone that process. Necessary for the preservation of the fifth age was the preservation of the life of the Sun. This would essentially be accomplished in two ways; serving balance in the present era by living that same balance in one's own life and, nourishing the life of the sun with chalchihuatl, "the precious liquid (blood) drawn from the sacrificed victims, the only suitable nourishment for the Sun."30 Hence, human sacrifice was part of the process of maintaining balance between order and chaos on the cosmic scale. One other aspect to note: it served as a point of contact with the divine in that the one sacrificed was often seen to represent a divine force. Ritual cannibalism was also practiced in which the people would eat the meat of the divine force represented by the one sacrificed, thereby uniting the divine and human orders.31

³⁰ León-Portilla, 37.

The fact of human sacrifice, and the scale of the human sacrifice practiced by the Aztecs strikes authors in many ways. Séjourné sees it as a perversion of Nahuatl spirituality, not as an expression of it. Some see it as primarily the product of imperialism. Here see Geoffrey W. Conrad and Arthur A. Demarest, Religion and Empire: The Dynamics of Aztec and Inca Expansionism (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984). The example of León-Portilla will be followed to simply note the phenomenon and situate it within Nahuatl theology.

Needless-to-say, this is an incredibly streamlined presentation of a complex mythology. What is emphasized is that Nahuatl mythology presents many diverse deities which embodied the eras of the universe, leading to the age of the Nahuatl - - the Fifth Era. The previous ages had been formed when an equilibrium was achieved, yet while one of the elements was predominant over the others, the Era therefore not being centered and balanced. The Fifth Era was formed when all maintained a creative balance. In the Fifth Era, Quetzacóatl created humanity and revealed to humanity the cosmic balance and the need to maintain this balance, personally, collectively, and cosmically. In that Fifth Era, the "Age of the Sun," a morality was developed which maintained the balance between order and chaos and religious practices developed which nourished the Sun, hence supporting the balance.

León-Portilla abstracts from the mythological to note what he calls "Nahuatl cosmological categories." The most urgent was to see the world as having a solid foundation. For the Nahuas, that was provided by Ometéotl, the dual-deity, the creator of the cosmic forces and the one who dwells both in the highest heaven and the center of the world.

A second category is that of the cyclical evolution of the foundations of the world.

The earth, created by Ometéotl, is not static, it

³² León-Portilla, 45.

is ever moving. Subjected to the influence of the cosmic forces, it becomes the field of action for these forces. When there is an equilibrium of forces, an age of the Sun exists. Soon thereafter, within a determined period, the equilibrium is upset and a cataclysm occurs; the only explanation seems to be that Ometéotl has withdrawn his support from the earth. Yet this is not so. Inherent in the various cycles is a latent principle of evolution, proof of his perpetual action.³³

A third category, as has been noted, is that of the four elements -- fire, water, wind and earth. These are not static elements but cosmic forces which relate to the four directions, areas of universal space. The East is the space of the color red and region of light, representing fertility and life. The North is that of the color black, the region of the dead. The west is the space of the color white, the land of woman. The South is the region of blue, a space of uncertain character represented by the rabbit, whose jump cannot be anticipated. These spaces, these vital cosmic forces, are in perpetual struggle with one another. It is, as has been see, through their opposition that the Eras of time developed cyclically.

These directions evidence the Nahuatl view of horizontal space. In addition, they developed a vertical view of the universe, which consisted of thirteen heavens and nine hells. The heavens were the places of the stars, the deities. The hells were the land of the dead. Their calendar was developed to mark time which was evenly dedicated, in the Era of the

³³ León-Portilla, 45-46.

Fifth Sun, to each of the cosmic forces. Time was divided into fifty-two year spans, in which each force or direction was allotted thirteen years. Each year and each day was similarly divided. As such, time and space were united in the cosmic balance of forces.

Thus, not only in each year, but also in each day, the influence of one of the four spatial directions predominated. Space and time, combining and interpenetrating, made possible the harmony among the gods (the cosmic forces) and, consequently, the movement of the sun and the existence of life. The profound significance of movement to the Nahuas can be deduced from the common Nahuatl root of the words movement, heart and soul. To the ancient Mexicans, life, symbolized by the heart (y-óllo-tl), was inconceivable without the element which explains it, movement (y-olli). The Nahuas, therefore, believed that movement and life resulted from the harmony achieved by the spatial orientation of the years and the days, in other words, by the spatialization of time. So long as this harmony continued, so long as the four directions of the universe were each allotted thirteen years in every century and their supremacy unquestioned during the specified time, the Fifth Sun would continue to exist - it would continue to move. 34

León-Portilla demonstrates at length that Nahuatl mythology presents the dialectical dualism described by Burkhart. Before returning to her work to examine Nahuatl moral teaching, it is important to note the main emphasis of León-Portilla's work. He holds that the wise men (tlamatinime-philosophers) did not think that their myth was adequate to their questions concerning the nature of existence. Therefore, they sought knowledge in the intuition of poetry, specifically

³⁴ León-Portilla, 56.

that characteristic of Nahuatl language known as "difrasismo." This characteristic, identified by Angel María Garibay K., is that of using words in pairs, creating a metaphor that speaks a truth or allows an intuition unavailable through straight prose. León-Portilla sees poetry (in Nahuatl "in xóchitl in cuícatl" ["through flower and song"], itself a "difrasismo") as the locus of philosophy for the Nahuatl wise one. However, it is interesting to note that the "difrasismo" does represent linguistically that current which runs throughout Nahuatl myth: two forces combine in one reality. León-Portilla makes the connection between language and myth:

Behind the apparent confusion of the entire Nahuatl pantheon, was the ever present Ometéotl. Popular religion worshiped, in ever increasing numbers, a multitude of "gods" of rain, wind, fire, war, the dead, and others. But the tlamatinime (wise men) went beyond mere polytheism. In their quest for a symbol, through "flower and song," which might lead them to comprehend the origin of all things and the mysterious nature of the invisible and intangible creator, the tlamatinime conceived the most profound of all their "difrasismes," Ometecuhtli-Omecíhuatl, Lord and Lady of duality. Beyond all time, beyond the heavens, in Omeyocan, Ometéotl Moyocoyani existed by self-invention and continued to exist by virtue of his perpetual creative activity. 35

This dialectical dualism of Nahuatl theology sees evil as one of the creative forces necessary for harmony and continued regeneration. Evil was part of the interaction between order and chaos that was necessary that the universe might continue in its movement. As the Nahuatl myth presents, evil and chaos

³⁵ León-Portilla, 99.

can be destructive forces, but if kept in balance with the other forces, they are part of the process of movement. The individual participates in the cosmic dualism present in the divinity, and in every aspect of reality, through ritual, both personal and collective, and through moral living. For this reason, Burkhart sees morality as a principal focus of Nahuatl religion and a prime area of contrast between Nahuatl and Christian thought. We return now to her work to see the moral categories of the Nahuatl and the ethic and ritual pertaining to those categories.

Burkhart identifies the moral categories as the following: centers and peripheries; purity and pollution; abstinence and excess; and, health and sickness.

Centers and Peripheries

Centers, whether in vertical space, horizontal space, or in time, are the locus of order. Any periphery to those is the place of chaos. Burkhart begins by examining the vertical space of the universe, described by León-Portilla above. The earth was situated between thirteen heavens and nine hells. The number thirteen was the symbol for day, nine for night. Thirteen indicated cosmic order and nine with disorderly factors. The calendar system counted days in units of thirteen and nights in units of nine. "In this sense the arrangements of the cosmos had moral implications: moral behavior was orderly and thus celestial/diurnal; immoral behavior was

disorderly and hence underwordly/nocturnal."36

The earth, the terrestrial plane, was a dangerous place. Burkhart quotes Sahagún (missionary and greatest classical ethnographer of the Nahuatl): "Tlaalaui, tlapetzcaui in tlalticpac - it is slippery, it is slick on the earth." It was a place in which the various forces belonged by right and the moral task was to maintain personal order that one might not fall into complete disorder. Nonetheless, the earth contained elements of disorder, the great example being that of the earthquake which was "conceived in the same terms as uterine contractions: disorderly movements which could create but could also kill." 38

Structure was imposed on the earth by dividing the earthly plane, first into the quarters of their cosmology, then into the various ordered spaces of their cities and homes. Cities, neighborhoods, and individual homes were divided according to the four quadrants of the four directions and each were well ordered and clean.

Personal movement followed either order or chaos, with powerful moral implications.

The argument operates on this analogy: secure center is to dangerous periphery as moral conformity is to immorality. Internal metaphor equates immoral acts with movement into dangerous places. This metaphor is treated metonymically,

³⁶ Burkhart, 48.

³⁷ Burkhart, 58.

³⁸ Burkhart, 58.

such that the immoral person is actually described as someone who enters these places, as if the act of movement and the immoral deed belong to the same behavioral domain.³⁹

Ordered space was equated with morality. Being within one's enclosure was morally safe and appropriate. A good woman was one who stayed home. Immoral women were those who wandered the wide road. Orderly movement along a straight road was moral, in contrast to erratic movement, or other departures from the norm. 40 Departure from order was morally wrong, purification involved a re-centering, a reordering.

Burkhart notes here that, while this language is not directly inconsistent with the moral thought taught by the missionary, utilizing this language helped to continue the spatial-moral orientation of the Nahuatl. This was an orientation toward the balancing of opposing forces, in contrast to the Christian goal of rejecting evil. "In Christianity good and evil, moral and immoral diametrically opposed: there is a good side and a bad side, a good road and a bad road, rather than a narrow ridge with

³⁹ Burkhart, 60.

⁴⁰ Here one is reminded of terms Mexicans use to describe good and bad actions.

^{1. &}quot;Caminar el buen camino" (To walk the good road). This is often used to mean "to follow Jesus."

^{2. &}quot;Seguir adelante" (To continue forward). Here forward physical movement is a metaphor for continuing forward with God.

^{3. &}quot;Yo andaba con otra mujer" (I was walking with another woman). This refers to having sexual relations with someone other than one's wife.

danger on both sides."41

Time, likewise, is a locus for morality as time and space are necessarily connected. Religious and cultic practices, following the Nahuatl calendar, maintained order and perpetuated the structure necessary for the present age to continue in its movement, as León-Portilla described.

Crises in history were seen as the movement of the periphery to the center. This had occurred throughout history and would in the Fifth Era was well. Burkhart notes that the number five itself refers to disorder, which was part of the Era and would be its end.

Deities associated with behavioral excesses occur in groups of five; drinking five cups of pulque leads to inebriation, but drinking only four does not. The fifth age is in this sense an "age of excess." It is in some ways superior to the previous ages, but it also contains more of the seeds of destruction, inherent chaos that threatens its survival. This is the logical Nahua solution to what in Christianity is the "problem of evil." The fifth sun was created from the deformed syphilitic Nanhuatzin, a being tainted with a good bit of moral impurity. Its dominant deity is the cosmic trickster Tezcatlipoca, not the morally restrained Quetzacóatl. In this milieu, order is fragile; when it can no longer be maintained, the sun will die, time will stop, and timeless chaos will take its place. 42

The religious task, as both Burkhart and León-Portilla have shown, is to perpetuate order in vertical, horizontal and temporal space that chaos, by necessity present in the

⁴¹ Burkhart, 65.

⁴² Burkhart, 74.

universe, might be controlled and its consequences forestalled. Again, the Nahuatl conflict was not between good and evil, but order and chaos.

Purity and Pollution

Nahuatl thought expressed moral values in terms of purity and impurity. The immoral act is dirty and dirties the one committing the act. Sexual sins were most stressed, but the categories applied to other transgressions as well.

The word for the concept of pollution is <u>tlazolli</u> which refers to things worn out and thrown out, and to any kind of "matter out of place." It therefore refers to things which, through a process of disintegration, have become formless and disconnected. What is swept up is <u>tlazolli</u>.

Living necessarily brought one into contact with tlazolli. Therefore, cleanliness was required, physical as well as moral. For moral cleanliness, it is significant to note that the Nahuatl had a confession rite⁴⁴ called neyolmelahualiztli, "straightening one's heart" (resulting in a return to internal order), in which one confessed to a priest and did penance by going to a shrine, wearing a paper skirt to be left there. This symbolized the abandonment of one's tlazolli, enabling one to return home denuded of the filth of one's sin.

⁴³ Burkhart, 88.

⁴⁴ Ricard, 116-22. Ricard examines the Nahuatl experience of confession and the Catholic sacrament.

In addition to the confessional rite, bathing and sweeping were the central Nahuatl rites of purification. Bathing purified one from the <u>tlazolli</u> associated with body products, brooms with other dirt.⁴⁵

Naturally, such emphasis on pollution as symbolizing moral imperfection with bathing and a confessional exercise as purifying have strong parallels in the Catholic sacraments of baptism and confession and were important rhetorical tools used by the missionaries. Again, however, Burkhart notes:

The friars attempted to use filth as a metaphor for an intangible moral pollution having no physical manifestation but pertaining to an immaterial, spiritual level of reality which existed in a dichotomous relationship with a physical world. The use of such tropes to describe a moral condition was easily accepted, but the monist character of Nahua reality and the very physiological nature of Nahua pollution beliefs caused the figures to be translated into metonymic expression operating within a single domain of existence. Within this domain, metaphors drawn between the realms of moral and physical pollution slipped easily into metonymy because of the close links among all varieties of <u>tlazolli</u>. Persuasive as the friar's usage of pollution symbolism was and the Nahua's acceptance of baptism and confession as purification rites suggests that it was convincing - such tropes were operating within a Nahua frame of reference. 46

Abstinence and Excess

Being abstinent and avoiding excess was the goal for the

⁴⁵ Sweeping remains a "ritual" in Mexican families. The process of sweeping one's yard is a daily morning exercise. Recently a Mexican woman told this author that she was taught by her grandmother never to sweep the yard at night, the time of spirits, but only at daylight.

⁴⁶ Burkhart, 128-29.

Nahuatl, with the motive being that of maintaining the balance between order and chaos, to avoid pollution and gain divine favor. As life on earth is, for the Nahuatl, slippery, caution must be exercised.

The basic model is that of a system in equilibrium, the body as a microcosm subject to the same disorders and dangers of the universe. . . . It can be thought of as an equilibrium between "hot" and "cold" forces. . . . Work heats one up; rest cools one. Sexual arousal is hot; its satisfaction cooling. Drinking pulque is cooling. Too little work, too much sex, much tippling, and one has thrown oneself out of equilibrium and into the cold clutches of tlazolli. 47

Health and Sickness

Nahuatl thought associated illness with immorality in two ways. First, the gods could punish one with disease or deformity for breaking a taboo. Second, contact with talzolli could cause illness as contact with disordered elements brought disorder to the individual. Purification rites were seen as the common cure.

The association of sickness with immorality . . . is merely one more manifestation of the order/disorder model. Immoderation, exposure to tlazolli, and other forms of disorder are causes of illness; illness belonging to the domain of disorder. Merely falling, tripping or being knocked down could bring serious illness upon an otherwise prudent and moral person. . . People already sick were especially susceptible to chaotic forces. 48

In The Slippery Earth, Burkhart's aim was to present the

⁴⁷ Burkhart, 132-33.

⁴⁸ Burkhart, 172.

contrast between the Christianity brought to Mexico in the sixteenth-century and the Nahuatl religious belief and practice it encountered. This contrast is especially seen in differing ethical systems, especially the evaluation of and justification for moral actions. Her conclusion is that Nahuatl thought was not replaced by the early missionaries' Christianity. By using Nahuatl language, thereby being confined to the world-view of that language, the missionaries did not replace Nahuatl religion with Christianity. Rather, they coexisted by necessity.

The hybrid Nahua-Christian religion represented at the dialogical frontier tended to blend the two cultures in such a way that Nahua structures and functions imposed themselves upon Christian content. The basic organization of the cosmos, of time and space, of order and disorder were maintained. . . . In this subjugation of content to form, an important mechanism was the transformation of metaphor to metonym as Christian transcendentalism crossed the dialogic frontier into Nahua monism. Things which, in Christianity, were ultimate truths became logical impossibilities in the absence of a dualist premise. . . . The logical structure of the universe remained Nahua; Christian elements transformed to fit this logic - to express symbolic relationships that made sense in a Nahua context - could be accepted because they no longer challenged the very nature of reality. . . . The result was "syncretic" in the sense that it combined elements of both cultures, but not in the sense of a simple sum of parts, nor of attaining a true synthesis. The frontier was a liminal zone full of contradictions and inconsistencies. The friars were unable to weave if of a whole cloth; the Nahuas could take from it only threads with which to mend the fabric, torn by the Conquest, of their own belief system.

⁴⁹ Burkhart, 187-88.

A review of the Catholicism of sixteenth-century Spain and the religious horizon it encountered in Mexico demonstrate that both of the religious antecedents of Mexican Catholicism saw reality as a complex spiritual reality with many participants. The individual was united to that spirit world through many forces, both positive and negative. One's spirituality was formed through religious ritual, both personal and collective, popular and sacramental, which expressed and sustained positive contact with the various spirits. And finally, personal morality was the focus for remaining within the positive or coming under the power of the negative. These elements continue to pertain to contemporary Mexican Catholicism, as the interview process indicated. We now turn to contemporary literature to see contemporary theological reflection within Mexican Catholicism proposals for pastoral ministry within that community.

Contemporary Literature

Here we examine the works of two authors, Mexican American theologians, as they reflect on the meaning of Mexican Catholicism in the United States. First we will study The Second Wave: Hispanic Ministry and the Evangelization of Cultures, by Allan Figueroa Deck and then the following works by Virgilio Elizondo: Galilean Journey: The Mexican-American Promise, The Future is Mestizo, and, La Morenita: The Evangelizer of the Americas.

Allan Figueroa Deck, in The Second Wave, situates the

Mexican American experience within the context of the evangelization of cultures. Beginning with an examination of pertinent demographics, 50 Deck notes the importance of the Hispanic presence in the Catholic community, especially as it presents a face of Catholicism that the mainstream American Catholic community does not recognize nor understand.

Essential for understanding the Hispanic presence is understanding its history. Focusing on the Mexican presence in the Hispanic community, Deck studies the various periods of Mexican religious history and religious characteristics that are found in that history.

Reviewing pre-Columbian religious heritage, Deck notes that there are only four cultures older than Mesoamerica. An important feature of that culture was the absolute importance given to religion in every sphere of life. Quoting Octavio Paz in his 1970 work The Other Mexico, he states that the Mexican quest for legitimacy and authenticity is rooted in the Aztec quest for the same. In that pre-Columbian heritage there were structures of domination that continue through today. One example is the name Mexico, the name of one of the Indian tribes which dominated others now serving as the name of the country. This pattern of subservience to domination is also rooted in the qualities of the Indian leader, the tlatoani. This relationship to impersonal, institutional and sacerdotal leadership was continued in the relationship to the Viceroy

⁵⁰ See Introduction above, 1-2.

and in the present relationship to Señor Presidente. Deck describes the importance of this heritage:

Given the intimate relationship between this "pyramidal" social and cultural construct and the history of domination among the Mexicans, Paz's metahistory provides a starting point for any historically and culturally grounded discussion of the evangelization and liberation of today's Mexicans and Mexican Americans. Underlying the passing historic ideological enthusiasms - imperialist, capitalistic, Marxist - are deeper currents that reassert themselves. . . . 51

Deck's examination of the colonial period reflects many points already noted. The mestizo as a culture was formed in the context of conquest and domination. Part of that conquest was the death of the gods, with all its trauma. Because of this, the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe was crucial as the vehicle for Mexican evangelization because she represented a positive evolution of the inculturation of the Christian faith. Nonetheless, the colonial period saw cultural conflict and rejection. It saw the society divided racially, condoned and perpetuated by the Church in its policies regarding a native clergy. 52 This was the time in which the relationship of the Mexican people to the institutional Church was established. Deck notes that although there were significant exceptions, the clergy and the Church were part of and supported the powerful versus the powerless. This has produced ambivalent feelings toward the Church. "Anticlericalism

⁵¹ Deck, <u>Second Wave</u>, 33.

⁵² Ricard, 217.

coexists in Mexican culture along with a strong traditional Catholicism."53

Contrasting this beginning with the beginning of the culture and religious heritage of the United differences are apparent. The English were beginning democracy, with its individualism, at the point of its colonial expansion. The Spanish were a feudal, medieval people when they began their colonies. The English-American people were almost completely literate. The Spanish-Mexican were an oral people. Mexico, in this period, never became a literate country. Deck notes that this creates an "oral consciousness" with a strong sense of tradition and solidarity. Myths, stories, and legends become important as knowledge is within the one who speaks it. Knowledge is this context is always personal and subjective. This difference in epistemology led the English-American to become modernized and secularized, traits much less developed in Spain-Mexico.

Deck next treats the Spanish borderland experience. Two issues stand out. The first is the recognition of the differences found in the <u>Tejanos</u> (Texans), <u>Hispanos</u> (New Mexicans), and <u>Californianos</u> (Californians). This is the background for understanding differences between the <u>Tex-Mex</u> and the <u>Cal-Mex</u>. For the second, to quote Deck:

An appreciation of the Spanish borderlands view of history is important. It helps explain why the Hispanic of Mexican origin, whether recently

⁵³ Deck, Second Wave, 42.

immigrated or rooted in the area for centuries, is unlike any other immigrant in the United States. In every respect except the strictly juridical, the movement of Hispanic northward is more an internal migration than an immigration. The failure to acknowledge this reality has led to policies that treat Hispanics of Mexican origin as "aliens" and as some kind of unique threat to the integrity of Anglo American society. Such a view is short sighted.⁵⁴

The Mexican national period has established or reinforced attitudes still present. First is the constant threat of the United States to Mexican sovereignty. This significantly colors the Mexican's approach to this country. Second is the Church's institutional role in defending the elite, although currently changing. Noting that the Church defrocked the priest Hidalgo, the hero of Mexican independence from Spain, identification with conservative, classicist, traditionalist and antimodern forces still linger. Third, the Mexican government has, since World War II, actively adopted policies of modernization and urbanization which has been a strong factor in emigration. Upon arrival in the United States, the Mexican has traditionally been the object of abuse, violence, prejudice, and racism.

This historical context necessitates a different understanding of the pastoral context and the elements of pastoral ministry. Following an analysis of that pastoral context which was noted in the presentation of the formation

⁵⁴ Deck, Second Wave, 47-48.

of Mexican Catholicism as a pre-Tridentine Catholicism, 55

Deck studies areas of pastoral ministry.

First, he looks at the parish, that basic structure of American Catholicism. He notes that the parish has served, in this culture, the function of protecting Catholic identity in a non-Catholic environment. Because Hispanic countries do not have that need, the Hispanics do not have the same relationship to the parish. Also, the policy of the National Parish (defining parochial membership by national origin, not territorial boundaries) was ended at the end of World War II. This was precisely the time that Mexican immigration greatly increased. Deck proposes the re-establishment of this policy so that the Hispanic will not encounter in the parish an Anglo structure that alienates.

Also important are various apostolic movements which allow for an affective experience of religion that is essential for the Hispanic and in contrast to the "more somber, even cold kind of Catholicism of northern origins." Another development he sees as important is the basic ecclesial community which is focused on the evangelization of the member and their role in evangelizing their society. Deck acknowledges, however, that the South American experience cannot be applied without qualification. Experience has demonstrated that establishing these communities is difficult

⁵⁵ See Deck, ibid., 29.

⁵⁶ Deck, Second Wave, 68.

in urban and transitory populations, characteristic of many Hispanic settings in the United States.

Catechesis, sacramental preparation and traditions pertaining to popular religious traditions evidence many differences which profoundly impact the experience of the Hispanic has of church. The North American emphasis on the norms to be accomplished for reception of sacraments, rather than seeing these sacramental times as "teachable moments" is a problem in Hispanic pastoral ministry.

One of the principal differences has already been alluded to, namely, the fact that the popular Catholicism of Mexico is centered on the performance of certain customs, the celebration of certain feasts, and the adherence to a certain culturally defined value system. The Catholicism of the U.S. parish is quite different. Generally it revolves around the parish Church and stresses personal preparation of the laity for the reception of sacraments.⁵⁷

Tensions develop because of these differences, as pastoral perceptions and policies often involve misunderstandings. Baptism and marriage present two common settings for these tensions. Deck states, regarding baptism, that U.S. priests do not understand that this sacrament is a humanizing rite whereby the infant becomes a person in a way he was not prior to the baptism. Furthermore, the Hispanic believes that something bad will happen to the child if it is not baptized. To deny baptism to the child because the parents are not sacramentally active, for instance not married in the

⁵⁷ Deck, Second Wave, 78.

Church, is seen as punitive to the child and a denial of the very values they see in baptism.

With marriage, the U.S. concept is that of two independent persons coming together to form a life-long union. This notion of independent persons is foreign to many Mexicans. Marriage, for the Mexican, occurs in the context of families. Roles are already determined. The husband should be hard-working and the woman should be a strong support, dependent on her husband and centered on her children. For Mexicans, it is difficult for them to admit psychological factors have much to do with maintaining the marriage bond. When problems occur, the only option is to bear with the difficulty. Divorce is evaluated in terms of its impact on family and is an absolute disaster. Deck feels that U.S. priests misserve the couple often as they view the person as "unique individual somehow apart from family and culture."58

North American pastoral agents are impaired by their training and their pedagogy. Regarding the former he writes that the pastoral worker is "more educated than ever before, but their education frequently reflects the demythologizing and rationalistic currents characteristic of a modern, secularized, urban society." And "what appears to be lacking in the pastoral approach . . . is a sound pedagogy that

⁵⁸ Deck, Second Wave, 81.

⁵⁹ Deck, <u>Second Wave</u>, 86.

takes as its point of departure the people <u>as they are</u>, rather than the norms on how they <u>ought to be</u>."⁶⁰

These concerns and cautions in Hispanic ministerial practice are understood by Deck in the context of four issues that are central categories of analysis for him. These key issues examine: the inculturation or evangelization of culture; the promotion of social justice or structural transformation; modernity and secularization; and, popular Catholicism and religiosity. Distinguishing the first two points, Deck sees evangelization as the primary mission of the Church. That mission involves both the liberation and "inculturation or the evangelization of culture, conceived as impacting personal values, feelings, customs and thought, while liberation is conceived as relating more to the transformation of the social order."

In the evangelization of culture, Deck's point is that honest cultural criticism is essential for proper evangelization. In the Mexican American setting, this means honest criticism and critique of both cultures and their relationships with faith, and the development of appropriate methods and instruments of evangelization that are truly inculturated in this culturally complex setting. Characteristics of Mexican culture have been noted. American culture is characterized by a modernity that is seen as

⁶⁰ Deck, Second Wave, 82.

⁶¹ Deck, Second Wave, 93.

normative. This has led to

[the] failure to articulate the transcultural and countercultural elements of the gospel in the North American milieu making it impossible to address the question of Hispanic ministry. For the evangelization of Hispanics is only part of the larger question which is the evangelization of United States culture.

Deck continues by affirming that evangelization must include structural transformation and political focus, although this does not seem to be present in current pastoral activity with Hispanics. The predominant pastoral focus is personal spirituality through the sacramental life, with some reasons for that focus found in the political skepticism that Mexicans have due to their heritage and historical experiences.

Deck first notes that the religiosity of the Mexican is rooted in the pre-Columbian cyclical view of history. In that view, history does not equal progress, it equals fate. The goal is to protect oneself, as much as possible, from fate. The goal is not to transform fate. Second, the Mexican has no experience of political or economic progress, so language regarding it will be met with skepticism. Third, the Church lacks credibility in this area due to its past history of defending the status quo. Fourth, Mexicans are suspicious of politics in general. Mexico had one million people die for a revolution (1910) that failed. Revolutionary language of any sort tends to be ineffective given that history. And finally,

⁶² Deck, Second Wave, 101.

American language regarding political justice is also met with skepticism due to the Mexican experience of American domination. Deck feels that the above must be understood when attempting structural critique and transformation in the context of Hispanic evangelization.

A third key issue in that evangelization is the question of the implications of modernization and secularization. Mexican Hispanics come from a culture which is premodern in many respects. Contrasting this with the modern American culture, Deck writes:

Basically that means these people (Mexican) were born into a culture that was organically integrated in which religion and myth provide explanation for the origin of things. A premodern or nonmodern society is experienced as a totalizing presence in which the interests and perceptions of the group, not the individual, are paramount. There is a clear-cut pattern of behavior and social organization, a holistic attitude toward life in its physical-material and spiritual dimensions. This society is hierarchically structured and characterized by continuity and permanence. It is closer to nature and has developed less control it. There is tendency а toward authoritarianism, a heavy emphasis on vertical relationship, hierarchy, in the premodern societies. Modern society, of which the United States is the paragon, is just the opposite. It is basically fragmented and egalitarian. It distanced from nature and ecology by science and technology. There is a preference for democratic approaches in modern culture. In the modern society, science - not religion and myth - provides the majority of answers, and there is a movement away from the transcendent yiews of God and humanity toward more immanence. 63

These differences are important to Deck for three

⁶³ Deck, Second Wave, 110.

reasons. First, the misunderstanding between Hispanics and North American pastoral workers often are rooted in these differences, leading at times to ministerial ineffectiveness. Second, this explains much of the conflict that is often found between Mexican immigrants and their U.S. born children. Third, Deck sees this as demonstrating the complexity of the evangelization of cultures. For him, evangelization of Hispanics really presumes, and needs to be focused upon, the evangelization of America, with all of its cultures.

Popular religiosity is the final key issue for Hispanic ministry. In the popular religion of Latin America one encounters the faith as it has already been inculturated in that cultural setting. Appreciation for its importance must be a starting point in ministry. He calls for an "internal ecumenism" 64 which sees the value of popular Catholicism as a starting point for evangelization, joining American culture as the contexts for inculturation.

The evangelization of Hispanics must deal with two extremes, then. On the one hand, it must . . . take its point of departure from Latin American popular culture, wisdom and religion; on the other, evangelization of U.S. Hispanics must also take the middle-class urban culture - truly the most representative form of popular U.S. culture - as another point of departure. The convergence of these two very distinct starting points is precisely the question faced by those who would evangelize the cultures of immigrant peoples in the

⁶⁴ Allan Figueroa Deck, Presentation on Hispanic Ministry, University of Santa Clara, California, 11 April 1989. Used with permission.

Given the history and the issues involved in Hispanic ministry, Deck presents eight pastoral objectives. They are sacramentalization, conscientization and empowerment, the establishment of basic ecclesial communities, parish renewal, ongoing conversion, the formation of lay leadership, youth ministry and pastoral de conjunto.

Sacramentalization provides an explicit orientation toward the sacred through symbol and myth that enables the Hispanic to confront modern culture. Conscientization and empowerment are necessary as evangelization focuses on transformation. In Hispanic ministry it could take the forms of consciousness raising, community organizing and advocacy. Basic ecclesial communities have the capacity to enable the Hispanic's experience of evangelization to be rooted in their culture, provide a context to explore change in the light of faith, and form small communities that give a point of reference for analysis rooted in the gospel. Ongoing conversion through feeling, movement and drama needs to be a priority in every element of ministry and parish activity. Deck cautions that this conversion must also include a social and structural focus.

Lay leadership should have as its goal the development of participatory structures and processes given the context of the Hispanic experience of the traditional abuse of power.

⁶⁵ Deck, Second Wave, 117.

Youth ministry is key in view of the significant percentage of the Mexican community under the age of twenty. As Deck notes, in many ways Hispanic ministry is youth ministry. Important in this ministry is challenging youth rather than comforting them, which Deck presents as the traditional goal of youth ministry in the United States. Finally, pastoral de conjunto is the vision of collaborative ministry both in establishing goals and achieving objectives. 66 Influenced by Latin American pastoral reflections, Deck observes its differences with pastoral focus in the United States.

Pastoral planning in the United States is geared toward making the Church institution function more effectively within the broader context of society. The intention behind the analysis of reality and all the subsequent steps is pragmatic. It is not generally concerned with transformative There is an unspoken understanding that the structures (whether of Church or society) basically sound. Pastoral planning, therefore, has as its primordial function making the system work more efficiently. Pastoral planning in the Latin American sense - the one assimilated by Hispanic ministry leaders in the United States another intentionality. Like much of the social reflection of Latin America it reveals an indebtedness to Marxist analysis. Not that it accepts inevitable class conflict or dialectical materialism, but rather, pastoral planning is viewed as a method of praxis ultimately concerned with bringing about serious, if not radical, change in conformity with a vision, a utopia. The code word for that vision in the Latin American context is the kingdom of God. Pastoral planning leads to <u>historical praxis</u> action geared to

⁶⁶ See <u>National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry</u> (Washington, D.C.: National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1987). <u>Pastoral de Conjunto</u> is a central aim in this pastoral plan.

transformation of society.67

Following these objectives, Deck concludes his work by noting that his study has been hindered by three facts, which provide goals for future study and analysis. The first is that there is a significant lack of social science analyses of "the Hispanic Catholic communities of the United States in terms of their participation and interaction within the ecclesial context." Secondly, the word Hispanic is woefully inadequate for the complexity it covers. Deck handled that difficulty by focusing upon the Mexican Hispanic presence. Thirdly, there is a lack of theological studies which take as their starting point the United States Hispanic experience.

One contemporary theologian who does take such a starting point is Virgilio Elizondo who is the second author we examine in this treatment of some current theological reflection within Mexican Catholicism.

Virgilio Elizondo's thought is foundational to any examination of Mexican American theological reflection. A native Texan, founder of the Mexican American Cultural Center, and Catholic priest, Elizondo offers theological reflection which originates in the religious experience of the Mexican American.

In his work <u>Galilean Journey: The Mexican American</u>
<u>Promise</u>, Elizondo explores the dynamics of racial and cultural

⁶⁷ Deck, Second Wave, 149-50.

⁶⁸ Deck, Second Wave, 155.

mixture, seeing that experience as one of oppression from which Christ liberates. 69 That mixture, which he terms mestizaje, has taken place for the Mexican American. The first mestizaje began in 1519 with the Spanish Conquest. Born in domination and destruction, Elizondo notes that it also involved the creation of a new reality in that racial mixing which was not discouraged by Spanish kings or Rome. A new race was created through the mixture. Religiously and culturally a new reality was created through the mixture represented in Our Lady of Guadalupe. For Elizondo, she is the mother of the new race.

[A]t Tepeyac Christ set foot on the soil of the Americas and signaled the reversal of European domination. Tepeyac symbolized the birth of the Mexican people and the birth of Mexican Christianity. They were no longer an orphaned people and the new religion was no longer that of foreign gods. . . . Guadalupe is the key to understanding the Christianity of the New World, the self-image of Mexicans. 70

For Elizondo, the value of this first <u>mestizaje</u> is affirmed and its conflict resolved in the affirmation of the people and in the development of their religion communicated through Guadalupe, which is also a <u>mestizaje</u>. The Mexican American, however, is also the product of a second <u>mestizaje</u> which began with the Mexican American war. Through domination, half of Mexico was stolen and the provisions of the 1848

⁶⁹ Virgilio Elizondo, <u>Galilean Journey: The Mexican</u>
<u>American Promise</u> (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1983).

⁷⁰ Elizondo, Galilean, 12.

treaty guaranteeing respect for Mexican religion, culture and language in the newly conquered peoples were ignored. Elizondo sees this creating dynamics of inclusion and exclusion, social distance and defense of barriers that are part of the present Mexican American experience. This conflict has not been resolved.

The Mexican American has experienced three historical phases for Elizondo. The first was simply survival. The second involved development efforts as they sought to become good Americans. The third are the <u>movimientos de liberación</u>. He sees the Mexican American as struggling under negative impressions from the dominant cultural perspective. He notes that brown, Spanish-speaking, racially mixed and Roman Catholic are "heavily negative." These impressions, coupled with oppressive social structures, lead to the goal for the Mexican American of liberation from such social and cultural oppression.

Just as the Mexican American social and cultural heritage is distinct, so in its religion. Elizondo sees Mexican American belief articulated through the natural expressions of popular religiosity celebrated throughout the year. He divides them into three groups; Symbols of Identity and Belonging, Symbols of Suffering, Struggle and Death, and Symbols of New Creation.

Symbols of Identity and Belonging include Ash Wednesday,

⁷¹ Elizondo, Galilean, 23.

the <u>Posada</u> celebration, Eucharistic devotion and <u>Cristo Rey</u>. Ash Wednesday has little to do with the beginning of Lent for the Mexican American. Placing ashes on the forehead affirms a spirituality of the earth, <u>la tierra</u>. It is a time of cultic communion with mother earth. The ashes also represent hope as they communicate that suffering and death have meaning. The <u>Posada</u> celebration re-enacts Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem. A procession moves from door to door and is rejected at each door. Finally, the procession is welcomed and a fiesta is celebrated at the final stop. This is based on the two experiences of rejection of the poor and the joy that comes to those who welcome what the world rejects, both themes central to the experience of Jesus. Finally, both Eucharistic devotion and the celebration of Christ the King affirm unity with Jesus who is worshipped.

The great expression of the <u>Symbols of Suffering</u>, <u>Struggle and Death</u> is the religious focus on <u>El Viernes Santo</u> (Good Friday). Here the people see their sufferings in those of Christ which they express in the Stations of the Cross and a re-enactment of the burial of Christ.

The <u>Symbols of New Creation</u> are the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the celebration of baptism. Elizondo sees the Guadalupe celebration as a resurrection celebration for the Mexican American as hope is given to the people as they are united with God in <u>La Virgen</u>. In addition, it also provides a Pentecost event as dialogue between the native and

European and the people and the Church enabled through <u>La</u>

<u>Morenita</u>. Baptism is also a symbol of new creation as it

welcomes a child into social, cultural and family life. Much

more than inclusion in the institutional church, it welcomes

the child into the life and memory of the family.

These expressions of belief and faith unite the Mexican American experience with Jesus of Galilee whose cultural identity was compatible with the Mexican American context. This identity of Jesus places Christ in a specific historical and cultural context. Specifically, Elizondo sees Galilee as a place of many races and cultures, the products of which are rejected by the power in Jerusalem. He sees Jesus the Galilean as being marginalized and rejected by virtue of being Galilean, which parallels the Mexican American experience. Jesus' relationship with the Father provided the freedom which allowed him to confront the power of structural oppression, for him located in Jerusalem. This provides two principles for the Mexican American, the Galilean principle and the Jerusalem principle. The Galilean Principle states that what human beings reject, God chooses as his own. For the Mexican American, their mestizaje is their Galilean identity and their challenge. The rejection they experience (from society, from individuals, from the Church), can be transformed, as it was in Christ, into love, communion, and communication. In fact, that is their call. "God has chosen the Mexican American to be

his historical agents of new unity. . . . "72

Elizondo does not underestimate the struggle. It will be like Christ's, leading to the ultimate exultation of the resurrection, which is the Jerusalem principle.

The Jerusalem principle: God chooses an oppressed people, not to bring them comfort in their oppression, but to enable them to confront, transcend, and transform whatever in the oppressor society diminishes and destroys the fundamental dignity of human nature.⁷³

The reality of mestizaje is one that brings rejection and yet unites the Mexican American with Jesus. The historical reality is oppression. The goal is liberation and the means is identity with Jesus, confronting in freedom that which oppresses. As it replicates the experience of Jesus, it becomes the promise which redeems the experience of the Mexican American and allows him to be the means of redemption for the oppressor. This is his overarching principle which provides a context to understand Mexican American cultural and religious experience and unite it with Jesus Christ and the liberation he offers.

Elizondo speaks of these themes in his works <u>The Future</u>
is <u>Mestizo</u>: <u>Life Where Cultures Meet</u> and <u>La Morenita</u>:

<u>Evangelizer of the Americas</u>. In the former he reflects upon

⁷² Elizondo, Galilean, 102.

⁷³ Elizondo, Galilean, 103.

⁷⁴ Virgilio Elizondo, <u>The Future is Mestizo: Life Where Cultures Meet</u> (Bloomington, Ind.: Meyer-Stone Books, 1988); and <u>La Morenita: Evangelizer of the Americas</u> (San Antonio: Mexican American Cultural Center, 1980).

his subjective experience of being a Mexican American with the experiences of quest for identity, of being a violated people, a marginal people, all united with the God through Our Lady of Guadalupe at Tepeyac and through the Galilean experience of Christ. In the final chapter of <u>The Future is Mestizo</u> Elizondo develops his understanding that this <u>mestizaje</u> is God's vehicle for creating a new human unity.

Elizondo notes that the ethnic and cultural reality of the United States is becoming increasingly diverse through continued patterns of immigration and desire by various groups to resist movements of integration, due to fear of loosing their cultural richness in the process. Therefore, he presents the goal of creating a new synthesis, as remaining completely Mexican in the United States is impossible and becoming completely American undesirable. A new synthesis, a new mestizaje is the goal and it "occurs when they take unto themselves the new culture while combining it with their own inner selves."

This quest for the Mexican American takes place within the context of a threshold of a new humanity, precisely because the reality of mestizaje is present and unavoidable. Mestizaje has always been present throughout human history and the present-day political and economic realities increase its likelihood as they bypass nationalism.

The new mestizaje that is taking place in diverse

⁷⁵ Elizondo, <u>Mestizo</u>, 100.

forms every place on the globe represents a breakthrough to a new humanity. Diversity in the various historico-geographical regions of the world will continue to be evidenced and even strengthened through the quest for roots and continuity with our ancestors. Yet there will also emerge a great common unity that we all seek but have not yet experienced. This new unity will not be homogeneity, a humanity without differences; it will be a new mosaic of the human race. 76

The Second Vatican Council set the Catholic Church in this direction in its openness to other religions and cultures. Elizondo quotes the decree on missionary activity, Ad Gentes:

That they may be able to give this witness of Christ fruitfully, let them be joined to those men by esteem and love, and acknowledge themselves to be members of the group of men among whom they live. Let them share in the cultural and social life by the various exchanges and enterprises of human living. Let them be familiar with their national and religious traditions, gladly and reverently laying bare the seeds of the Word which lie hidden in them. (no. 11)⁷⁷

Elizondo sees this as representing a "Copernican revolution" in thought and outlook toward other religions and cultures. He sees the instructions of the Council being that we do not separate ourselves religiously or culturally but create a mixture, a respectful synthesis which gives witness to the universal love of Christ. While the Council did not call for such a mestizaje per se, its instructions will lead to a cultural mestizaje which Elizondo sees as the ultimate goal for humanity.

⁷⁶ Elizondo, <u>Mestizo</u>, 101-02.

⁷⁷ Elizondo, <u>Mestizo</u>, 103.

But is this possible? Elizondo believes that it is already happening throughout the world, in diverse ways. However, what is missing is what is most necessary, that of a religious mestizaje for humanity.

Jesus of Nazareth offers the world a true way of becoming a universal family without destroying the local genius or even the local religion of the people. Transformation yes, destruction no. It was the migrant Jesus of Nazareth who had been raised in highly mesticized Galilee who prayed "that all might be one."

But is this possible? Again, for Elizondo, it is possible as it has already happened.

Mexican <u>mestizaje</u>, although painful and negative at many moments of the process, can today play a positive role because its religious symbolism provides the synthesis of two apparently irreconcilable religions: Spanish Catholicism and the native American religions. The indigenous peoples of the Americas found the European religion incomprehensible, while the Catholic missioners found the native religions abominable. Yet in the brown Lady of Guadalupe, a new synthesis was achieved that was acceptable to both. I am convinced that were it not for the Lady of Guadalupe, there would be no Mexico today. There would simply be new Spain and the descendents of the native peoples, co-existing but never merging into one people. Had there been no religious <u>mestizaje</u>, the barriers between the two groups would still be insurmountable.

Mexican culture and Mexican Catholicism were born in the brown Virgin of Guadalupe. Mexican Catholicism cannot be adequately understood through the theological categories of Western Europe, for its indigenous substratum permeates every fiber of the Mexican Church. Yet it is no mere syncretism. It is profoundly Christian, although its modes of expression have not always

⁷⁸ Elizondo, <u>Mestizo</u>, 107.

been recognized as legitimate by outsiders. 79

Virgilio Elizondo sees Our Lady of Guadalupe as a central expression of Mexican cultural and religious identity, identity with one another and with God. Our Lady of Guadalupe presents a model for the world in its search for a new religious mestizaje. She embodies both the goal and the means for human unity and the Mexican sees in her the image of himself/herself as the agent of this religious and cultural unity. Consequently, as the title of this book states, Elizondo sees that the future is mestizo and Mexican Catholicism, as an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, represents precisely that.

Elizondo examines Our Lady of Guadalupe in detail in his work <u>La Morenita</u>: <u>Evangelizer of the Americas</u>. As all of the sources we have presented demonstrate the centrality of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Mexican Catholicism, studying the meaning and phenomenon of this experience is important.⁸⁰

Elizondo presents the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe within the context of the great clash of the opposing worlds of the Spaniard and the native american. He presents this clash, elements of which have been seen in the literature examined above. God's alternative to this clash of peoples,

⁷⁹ Elizondo, Mestizo, 107.

⁸⁰ For another treatment of the phenomenon of Our Lady of Guadalupe, especially regarding the question of Mexican national development, see Jacques Lafaye, <u>Quetzalcóatl and Guadalupe: The Formation of Mexican National Consciousness</u>, <u>1531-1813</u> (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1976).

cultures and world-views is Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Due to the significance of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the story of the apparition will be presented in its entirety.⁸¹

On Saturday, December 9, 1531, early in the morning, Juan Diego, a Christian Indian of middle age, was on his way to participate in early Mass at Tlatelolco. Juan heard very beautiful music. He believed that he was either dreaming or in paradise.

He stopped, looked around, and tried to discover where the music came from. He heard a soft voice saying "Juanito, Juan Dieguito." Without even noticing what he was doing, he began walking towards the direction of the call.

When he came to the top of the hill, he saw a lady of glowing beauty. Her dress radiated like the sun and her face had an expression of love and compassion. She said to him: "Juanito, the smallest of my children, where are you going?" He responded, "My dear child, I have to go to your house of Mexico, Tlatelolco, to hear about the divine things which are given and taught to us by our priests, the delegates of our Lord.

She then spoke to him and made known her will: "Know and understand, you the dearest of my children, that I am the ever holy Virgin Mary, Mother of the true God through whom one lives, of the Creator of heaven and earth. "I have a living

 $^{^{81}}$ On page 75 Elizondo describes his source for the story of the apparition:

The story of the apparition will be taken from the Album Del IV Centenario Guadalupano, published by the National Basilica de Santa María de Guadalupe, Mexíco, 1938. The translation from the Spanish is my own. The Spanish translation was made from the Mexican original by Br. Luis Lasso de la Vega, who made a faithful textual copy in 1649 of the original writing by Juan Diego and Antonio Valeriano. In 1847, during the war with the United States, these valuable documents were taken by the United States and are kept in the archives of the State Department in Washington. Elizondo, Morenita, 1980. Used with permission.

desire that there be built a temple, so that in it I can show and give forth all my love, compassion, help, and defense, because I am your loving mother: to you, to all who are with you, to all the inhabitants of this land and to all who love3Xme, call upon me, and trust in me. I will hear their lamentations and will remedy all their miseries, pains and sufferings.

"In order to bring about what my mercy intends, go to the palace of the bishop and tell him how I have sent you to manifest to him what I very much desire, that here on this site below the hill, a temple be built to me." Immediately, he made an inclination, and said to her: "My Lady, I am already on the way to fulfill her mandate."

Juan Diego went quickly to the palace of the bishop. After a long wait, he was able to see the bishop and gave him the message of the Lady. The bishop was kind to him, but told him to return on another day when he could slowly hear his entire story from beginning to end. Juan Diego left in great sadness because he had failed in his mission.

He went directly on to the top of the hill where he had spoken with the Lady, and seeing her, said: "My dear child, I went where you sent me to fulfill your mandate. It was with great difficulty that I entered the room of the bishop. I gave him your message, just as you had told me to do. He received me kindly and he heard me attentively, but he did not believe as true what I told him. He told me to come again and he would hear me out slowly. My dear Lady, I understood perfectly well in the way in which he responded that he believes that perhaps it is an invention of mine that you want them to build you a temple here. Thus, I beg you entrust your mission to one of the important persons who is well known, respected and esteemed so that they may believe him. You know that I am a nobody, nothing, a coward, a pile of old sticks, just like a bunch of leaves. I am nothing. You have sent me to walk in places where I do not belong. Forgive me and please do not be angry with me, my lady and mistress."

The Lady answered him: "Listen, my son, the smallest of my children, I want you to understand that I have many servants and messengers to whom I can entrust this message, but in every aspect it is precisely my desire that you seek help so that with

your mediation, my wish will be fulfilled. I beg you with great insistence, my son, the smallest of my children, and I sternly command you, once again, to go tomorrow to see the bishop. Greet him in my name and make known my will to him, that he has to begin work on the temple I am asking for. And once again tell him that I personally, the ever holy virgin Mary, Mother of God, send you."

Juan Diego responded: "My dear Lady, I will gladly go to fulfill your mandate. I will go to do your will. They probably won't listen to me, or if they listen, they will probably not believe me. But in any case, I will return tomorrow afternoon to report to you."

The next day he went from his home to Tlatelolco to the palace of the bishop. Once again it was with great difficulty that he was able to gain an audience with the bishop. This time the bishop asked him many questions - where he saw her, what did she look like, etc., but he answered the bishop perfectly. He explained with the greatest precision about her figure and everything which he had admired; nevertheless, the bishop did not believe him and told him that his word was not sufficient evidence, that he needed some sign to believe that it was truly the heavenly Lady who was sending him.

Without hesitation, Juan Diego responded: "Tell me what is the sign that you are asking for so that I may go and ask the Lady for it."

The bishop, seeing that he was not disturbed in the slightest, and that did not change his story in any way, dismissed him, but he immediately sent some of his household to follow him to see where he was going and whom he was speaking with. They started out after him. He went directly to the hill of Tepeyac but when he arrived, they lost track of him. They tried to find him, but they could not and returned to the bishop tired and angered. They begged the bishop not to believe him because he was obviously just inventing stories.

In the meantime, Juan Diego was already with the Virgin telling her the response of the bishop. Having heard the response, the Lady said to him, "Very well, my son, you will return here tomorrow so that you may take to the bishop the sign which he has asked for. With that, he will believe you and will have no further doubts; and know well, my

beloved son, that I will repay you for your care, work and fatigue which you have done on my account. Go and I will await you here tomorrow."

The next day, when Juan Diego was supposed to take the sign so that he might be believed, he did not return. When he had arrived home the previous day, he had discovered his uncle, Juan Bernardino, gravely ill. Juan Diego spent the day searching for a medical person to assist his uncle. Having failed to do so, he promised his uncle that early in the morning he would go to Tlatelolco to call one of the priests to confess him and prepare him for death, because it was evident that it was time for him to die and that he would not get up from his bed to regain his health.

Very early on the morning of Tuesday, December 12, 1531, Juan Diego rushed to Tlatelolco to get the priest. When he came near the hill of Tepeyac, he thought to himself that it was better not to stop because the Lady might see him and stop him. He did not want to displease her, but he did have to rush to get the priest for his dying uncle. As he was going by the other side of the hill, in order to avoid her, he saw the Lady coming down from the top of the hill, and coming to him, said: "What's happening, my son, the smallest of my children. Where are you going?"

He became very embarrassed and greeting her, said: "My dear Lady, I hope you are happy; I am going to cause you some affliction. I want you to know that my uncle is ready to die. Now I am rushing to your house in Mexico to call one of the beloved priests of our Lord to go and confess him and prepare him for death. As soon as I have taken care of this, I will return here so that I may take your message. Forgive me, I am not lying to you. I will come first thing tomorrow."

The Virgin answered him, "Hear me, my son, that which scares you and causes you anguish is nothing; do not let your heart be troubled, do not be afraid of that sickness, Am I not here who am your Mother? Your uncle will not die of this sickness; be assured that he is healthy." Juan was greatly consoled and was very happy. Then the Virgin told him to go to the top of the hill where he would find various flowers. She told him to cut and gather the flowers and bring them to her. He obeyed immediately and when he arrived at the top,

he was astounded to discover numerous exquisite roses from Castille, especially since it was long before their normal time. They had a beautiful aroma and were covered with the morning dew. He immediately began to cut them and returned to the Lady with the roses. She took them into her hands and rearranged them in his tilma. She then said, son, the smallest of my children, diversity of roses is the proof and sign that you will take to the bishop. You will tell him in my name that he is to see my will in this and he must fulfill it. You are my ambassador and most worthy of trust. I rigorously command you to unfold your mantle only in the presence of the bishop and to show him what you have with you. You are to tell everything. You will say that I told you to go to the top of the hill to cut the flowers, and tell everything that you saw and admired, so that you may convince the prelate to give his help in building the temple that I have asked for."

Immediately after receiving his instructions from the Lady, he set out without haste to the house of the bishop. He was happy and had no doubt that this time he would be believed.

When he arrived at the place of the bishop, the servants of the bishop came out to see him. He begged them to please tell the bishop that he had to see him, but none of them wanted to listen to him. They acted as if he were not around. But seeing that he would not go away, that he simply stayed patiently in his place, the servants decided that they had better inform the bishop. Soon the strong aroma of the roses began to spread and the servants also were able to get a few glimpses of what he had with him. They were surprised to see roses of various kinds and of great beauty, and at first tried to take them from him, but he held on all the more. They finally went to tell the bishop what they had seen and that it would be good to see the Indian.

The bishop became very excited, for he sensed that this was this sign that he had been asking for. He immediately asked for Juan Diego to be shown into his study. As soon as Juan Diego came in, he made his reverence to the bishop and began to tell him once again everything that he had seen and admired and also the message of the Lady. He said: "Sir, I did what you ordered me to do, to go and tell my Lady, the Lady of Heaven, Holy Mary,

precious mother of God, that you asked for a sign in order to believe me, that you are to build a temple on the site that she is asking for. Furthermore, I told her that I had given you my word that I would bring you a sign and proof of her will. She accepted your request and kindly produced what you asked for, a sign and proof so that her will may be fulfilled."

"Today, very early in the morning, she once again ordered me to come and see you. I asked her for the sign so that you might believe me, as she had told me that she would do. And at that moment she produced the sign. She sent me to the top of the hill, where I had seen her before, to cut the roses from Castille. After I had cut them, I came back down to the bottom of the hill where she took them into her hands, rearranged them, and put them into my mantle so that I might personally bring them to you."

"Even though I was well aware that the top of the hill was no place for flowers, because there are only cactus, mesquites, and other kinds of wild brush, I did not doubt. When I went to the top of the hill, I saw that I was in paradise with all the varieties of roses of Castille, shinning with the morning dew. She told me why I was to give them to you. That is what I am doing now so that in them you may see the sign which you have asked for and thus you will fulfill her will; also that the truthfulness of my word may be evident. Here they are, accept them."

As he unfolded his tilma, all the roses dropped to the floor and as they did the precious image of the always holy virgin Mary, Mother of God, appeared on the tilma in the presence of the bishop and his household, the image, which has defied time and scientists, and appears just as beautiful today as on December 12, 1531. The same tilma is in the temple built in her honor on Tepeyac, called Guadalupe. As she appeared in their presence on the tilma, they were amazed and fell to their knees. They greatly admired the image and showed by their actions that they truly saw her in their minds and hearts. 82

Elizondo sees the importance of the apparition

⁸² Elizondo, Morenita, 75-81.

communicated not only in the story of the apparition, but in the detailed symbolism of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In chapter III of this work he explains the meanings of the symbols.

The first is that she is an Indian maiden. Speaking to Juan Diego in Nahuatl, she appeared as La Morenita, "the little brown one."⁸³ She appeared not as a Spaniard, but an Indian. This was also communicated in the posture of the face and the position of the eyes. For the ancient Mexican, the face revealed the inner person. In contrast to the Aztec and Mayan gods her eyes and face are revealed to present a loving and compassionate relationship.

Even though she was greater than the greatest, she was not a proud creature, indifferent to the affairs of ordinary people, neither did she show the impersonalism of the Mayan gods nor the masked presence of the Aztec gods. She was beautifully human. She had her eyes cast down, looking upon the people and even allowing them to be reflected upon her eyes. She had the look of humility and compassion, that is, her whole face spoke of compassion and understanding. What she said in her words to Juan Diego was certainly confirmed by her facial expression, since (to) the ancient Mexican mind, the face (el rostro) was the window to the inner person.⁸⁴

The dress was the color red, the color of the blood of sacrifices. It was the color of the god Huitzilopochtli-Sun, who gives life and was nourished with the life-blood. Red also represented for the Nahuatl the East, the locus of the new

⁸³ Note that the diminutive, "little brown one," is a term of affection.

⁸⁴ Elizondo, <u>Morenita</u>, 85.

sun, communicating a new beginning, a new era.

The predominant color of the image, however, is the bluegreen of the mantle. These were also colors of the deities. This was the color of Ometéotl, dualistic mother-father of the gods, the origin of all things. The turquoise was the royal color of the gods, reserved for deities. It also represented that point at the center of the cross, the center of the opposing forces which, in Nahuatl thought, maintained everything in a creative balance.

The stars on the mantle were seen as representing deities communicating both the end of one era and the beginning of another. The angel supporting the Lady could have meant two things, both understandable to the Nahuatl. First, being carried by another was either a sign of royalty or that one represented the deities. That Our Lady of Guadalupe was carried by a heavenly creature meant that she came on her own and was not brought by the Spaniards. The second meaning concerns time. Each era was supported by a god. "As the time had run out for the previous civilization . . . a new one would be brought in. Thus, this marked the beginning of a new era: the era of the Lady and everything she stood for."

The rays of the sun refer to the Sun god, one the greatest of the native pantheon. That she stands before the sun, hiding it but not destroying it, indicates that she does not do away with it but shows that she is greater than the

⁸⁵ Elizondo, Morenita, 84.

greatest. This is also her relationship with the moon, another significant god for the Nahuatl.

The black band around her waist is a maternity band. It is the sign that she is pregnant. She brings with her a child.

Furthermore, when one looks carefully at the overall image of Guadalupe one will observe that at the very center of the image, right over the navel, which was considered in the Indian world as the center of the cosmic order, is found an Indian cross. This symbol indicated that the new center of the universe would be precisely what Our Lady carries within her and is centered in her belly, marking the center of the universe. . . Yet on the broach which the Lady wears close to her neck the Christian cross is clearly seen; so this Lady, one of the indigenous people, is both bearer and follower of Christ . . . for the natives this fact implied . . . a direct relationship between the heavenly Visitor and the missioners' loving and merciful God. . .

In summary, the image tells the native Americans (and us): this is one of their own who offers compassion (face), and unites in herself the opposing tensions (mantle). She is greater than their gods, but she is not a god who ushers a new era into being. She is a pregnant mother who offers humanity what she carries within her; and, in a mysterious way, she herself has been liberated from power of evil by the death of Christ on the cross (as preached by the missioners).

Thus, even though this imprint is of a Marian image, it is a beautiful Christo-centered presentation of the Incarnation within the American soil. Once again, it is through Mary that God will receive his human face and heart. It will be a woman of this land who will give to the God-made man his human characteristics so that He may dwell amongst us. Not as a stranger but truly in every sense of the word as one of our own. 86

This review of this literature in the study of Mexican Catholicism demonstrates the antecedents of the mestizaje of

⁸⁶ Elizondo, Morenita, 85-86.

this faith, along with theological reflection about the nature of this faith and its role in humanity. These works have shown the richness of this faith and have presented many points of departure for further study of Mexican Catholicism. We will now highlight aspects of Mexican Catholicism demonstrated through the research presented above. A model of pastoral ministry will then be examined that expresses and serves this faith.

Chapter 4

Aspects of Mexican Catholicism

The aim of this study has been to discover, through a process of listening, some central aspects of Mexican Catholicism. This discovery has been developed through a dialogue with the faith experiences of Mexican Catholics in Santa Ana, California, its pre-Columbian and medieval Spanish religious antecedents, and with the presentation and exploration of Mexican Catholicism by contemporary theologians taking the Mexican Catholic experience as their point of departure. The purpose has been to elicit, through this dialogue, central religious emphases of the Mexican Catholic community which should be important in determining and evaluating pastoral ministry in the Mexican Catholic community in the United States.

This study highlights the following aspects of Mexican Catholicism.

1. God is real. The divine is present in the life and the thought of the Mexican Catholic. Reality is approached from a posture of absolute belief expressed in spiritual attitudes

¹ Allan Figueroa Deck, interview with author, 12 April 1989. In this conversation he contrasted the absolute belief of the Mexican with the post-Enlightenment Western experience. He said, "Since Descartes, the American is raised in systematic doubt. The Mexican is raised in systematic belief." Used with permission.

and manifested in spiritual experiences.

- 2. The individual is an active participant in an active spirit world of many forces. These forces, extending from saints to ghosts, are likewise real, impacting one's life in positive and negative ways.
- 3. Access to God and the spirit world is gained both through sacramental practices and popular religiosity. The latter is a central expression of Mexican Catholicism, most fully seen in the relationship of the Mexican Catholic with Our Lady of Guadalupe, but not limited to that relationship.
- 4. Mexican Catholic faith and practice is a <u>mestizaje</u> of its Spanish and Nahuatl antecedents. This Catholicism is deeply rooted in the religious heritage of medieval Spain and pre-Columbian Mexico. This heritage is distinctly pre-modern in its orientation and contrasts with the post-Tridentine Catholicism of the United States, especially as impacted by the post-Enlightenment modern American culture.

Allan Figueroa Deck and Virgilio Elizondo have analyzed and evaluated Mexican Catholicism in the United States. They have explored its historical antecedents, analyzed contemporary issues within it, and suggested directions for ministry in order to be faithful to its richness.

Particularly helpful are the pastoral objectives that Deck presents. As noted above, they are sacramentalization, conscientization and empowerment, the establishment of basic ecclesial communities, parish renewal, ongoing conversion, the formation of lay leadership, youth ministry and <u>pastoral de</u> <u>conjunto</u>. These objectives incorporate the aspects of Mexican Catholicism presented through the interview process and historical reflection. They also provide a focus for this faith, addressing not only specific qualities of Mexican Catholicism but also specific needs of the Mexican Catholic community.

One model of ministry currently active in the Mexican Catholic community of Santa Ana that encompasses many of these pastoral objectives is the youth movement entitled Jovenes Para Cristo. We now examine Jovenes Para Cristo to see one example of ministry that is an expression of the Mexican Catholicism we have studied and that serves some of the needs of that community.

Chapter 5

Jovenes Para Cristo

Three sources will be used to examine Jovenes Para Cristo [hereafter known as JPC]. They are JPC Statutes, 1 notes from their Tercero Encuentro, 2 of August 1989, and an interview conducted by the author with eight members of JPC from St. Joseph Parish, Santa Ana. 3 The written documents were presented to this author by the coordinator of the JPC community of St. Joseph Parish when meeting with members of that community. For that meeting, they were asked to present an overview of the history, structure and purpose of JPC. These documents were given as the official articulation of JPC, best expressing their structure and goal.

JPC began in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, El Monte, California in 1978. At that time two Mexican-born lay people, Carlos Ramirez and Benjamin Campos, began working together in the parish, visiting the sick, teaching the children, etc. After a time they decided to begin a ministry of evangelization and organized a retreat with forty participants to focus on the call to evangelize. This retreat took place in

¹ Appendix C, Jovenes Para Cristo Statues.

² Appendix E, Papers from Tercero Encuentro, August 1989.

³ Appendix D, Jovenes Para Cristo interview with author, 14 October 1990.

April of 1981.

En este primer retiro se pudo palpar la presencia de un Dios vivo que actuaba en los jovenes que alli se habian congregado. Todos superion ese fin de semana que Dios queria obrar por medio de ese grupo de jovenes para llegar a quienes mas necesitados estaban de Dios y de la Iglesia. (On this first retreat the presence of a living God was felt that acted among the youth that had gathered there. All knew, that weekend, that God wanted to work through this group, to be brought to the needier of God and the Church.)⁴

Following this retreat, the format was established of sending members from the community formed by the retreat to other parishes, that new youth groups might be started. The second JPC group was formed at St. Boniface Church in Anaheim, California, from which originated the name Jovenes Para Cristo (Youth for Christ). This process of going forth to found additional communities has continued at a successful rate. Currently, present in the dioceses of Orange, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino, communities have also begun in various parts of Mexico. At present, there are nineteen JPC communities in the Diocese of Orange, a diocese of fifty-two parishes, twenty-nine of which offer ministry in Spanish.

In their statutes, JPC articulates the characteristics of the movement, as well as their ecclesiology and vision for ministry. We will follow their documents to see their self-understanding and goals, represented in the experience of the encuentro as well as the description of the community of JPC at St. Joseph, Santa Ana, California.

⁴ Appendix E.

Their documents regarding the statutes of JPC present the characteristics of evangelization and pastoral action for the group. Their creed is then presented, followed by further statements on the nature of JPC and its work. We will follow the order of the statutes in seeing their articulation of the nature and focus of JPC.

Beginning with their presentation of the characteristics of JPC, the statutes state that there are eleven such characteristics. These aid in the aim of evangelization and every pastoral action that follows from that emphasis on evangelization.

JPC is communal (<u>comunional</u>). Every action of evangelization should be based in the desire of Jesus that all be united with one another. Here based in John 17:20, JPC states:

La evangelización debe conducirnos a formar comunidad y nos enseña a vivir en ella. Por tanto la Evangelización debe llevarnos al convencimiento de que no podemos ser autenticamente cristianos si no llegamos a compatir nuestra vida; si no somos capaces a ser pobres, de sentir necesidad de los demas y de compatir lo nuestro.

(Evangelization ought to lead us to form community

(Evangelization ought to lead us to form community and teach us to live in it. Therefore evangelization ought to convince us that we can not be authentically christian if we do not arrive at sharing our life; if we are not capable of being poor, of feeling the needs of others, of sharing what is ours.)⁵

JPC is authentic (<u>autentica</u>). It is to have all of the essential elements of evangelization and is to love Christ

⁵ Appendix C.

totally, both personally and in community. It is to respect all of the genuine values of the Christian faith of the Church with a critical sense, purifying the Christian life of all that is false.

JPC is integral (<u>integral</u>). It incorporates all of the message of Christ both in its content and to whom it is spoken. Following Mt 28:19-20, its content is to "go out and baptize all nations . . . teaching them all I have commanded you." This is a salvation spoken to all people and to every aspect of the person.

JPC is incarnational (encarnada). Pastoral action ought:

considerar al hombre en sus circunstancias, en su situation acutuaul(sic), sus espectativas personales y comunitarias, en sus necesidades y problematicas, en sus etapas de desarrollo y crecimiento y en sus anhelos legitimos de liberación.

(to consider man in his circumstances, in his actual situation, his personal and community perspectives, in his needs and problems, in the steps of his development and growth, and in his legitimate desire for liberation.)

JPC is dynamic (<u>dinamica</u>). Life cannot be seen apart from its dynamic process of growth and maturation. Therefore, evangelization ought to follow the same pattern of growth, in faith, love, and service.

JPC is focused on the person (<u>personalizante</u>). It has a profound respect for the person. This is true of the particular circumstances, cultural temperament, interests, prejudices, feelings and capabilities of the person. Each is

⁶ Appendix C.

accepted as they are and invited to grow.

JPC is liberating (<u>liberadora</u>). This word is understood in three ways: (1) as a liberation from sin and a reconciliation with God; (2) as a liberation from the structures of sin; and (3) as a promotion of human growth.

Nuestra respuesta de fe exige desde este punto de vista la conversion y reconciliación con Dios ayudados de la gracia. Exige, ademas, nuestra solidaridad y esfuerzo para cambiar estructuras economicas, politicas, sociales, religiosas y culturales, de opresos y destructoras de la persona humana en promotoras de su desarrollo integral, personal y comunitario. La acción pastoral debera tener en cuenta estos aspectos para que a su vez tenga sentido liberador.

(Our answer of faith demands from this point of view the conversion and reconciliation with God helped by grace. It demands, as well, our solidarity and strength to change economic, political, social, religious and cultural structures of oppression and destruction, in promoting integral, personal and communal development. Pastoral action ought to take into account these aspects that it have the feeling of liberation.)

JPC is promotional (<u>promotora</u>). To promote signifies supporting the conditions and impulses of growth of the individual in his/her yearnings and expectations. All of God's gifts are used, those given to the individual seeking growth and those given to the ones evangelizing in the promotion of growth.

JPC is participatory (<u>participativa</u>). Pastoral action and evangelization ought to be done in participation with, and coordinated with, the bishop, the priests, religious, and laity as the entire People of God work together proclaiming

⁷ Appendix C.

Christ.

JPC members are in unity with the whole Church (corresponsable). Each member, as the baptized, works as part of the whole body of Christ. The member, therefore, never acts alone, understanding that the body cannot function without the active participation of each member taking its part.

JPC follows an organized plan (<u>planificadora</u>). Evangelization ought to be planned and its programs organized. There ought to be, therefore, constant evaluation of the goals and methods of evangelization.

These characteristics are brought forth in the creed of the JPC, given in their statutes.⁸ It states:

Preparing ourselves to give to the Church a labor specifically among hispanic youth, we ought to be conscious of the fact that we believe as committed christians. Only in this way will we be able to share our faith in an effective manner among the youth.

FAITHFUL TO THE WORD OF GOD FAITHFUL TO THE CHURCH FAITHFUL TO CHRIST

A creed is a profession of faith and a vow with God and with our brothers in the world, both near and far.

FOR JESUS THROUGH MARY

WE BELIEVE that to be christians is to situate ourselves in a line of faith in God and in Jesus Christ. And, as a consequence, to adopt a posture of love and service toward others. And we desire that this faith arrives at being for us a fountain of hope and permanent joy.

WE BELIEVE that Christ was true man and true God,

⁸ Appendix C.

that he loves us without limits and he showed this to the point of dying on the cross.

WE BELIEVE that the project of the life of Christ puts forth for us the way for our own personal realization as men.

WE BELIEVE in his real presence among us and that he enlivens us in our strength in order to encounter him and love him.

WE BELIEVE that people exist who testify to the attractiveness of Christ.

WE BELIEVE that a community is a youth group of persons that have in common the same faith, the same hope, and the same love; that it is not a group that gathers to talk, discuss and resolve one's problems.

WE BELIEVE that all together are to form a family with all its consequences, whose older brother is Christ, who gives total feeling to life.

WE BELIEVE that in order to fully realize our christian faith we need a community that helps us in our faith.

WE BELIEVE in a christian youth that evolves with the time and is not permanently the same. That gives trust that prejudices and human respects change.

WE BELIEVE that christianity is a life, a reality to which every man is called.

WE BELIEVE that the Reign of God has arrived and that all men are invited to make it visible among all men; for this we ought to participate in our faith in Jesus.

We all participate in this "creed" to be christians, but it is important to be aware of communicating our life of Christ Jesus to others and present Jesus of Nazareth to the world as our Latin American Bishops want us to.

"It is our duty to announce clearly, without leaving doubt or errors, the mystery of the Incarnation: that of the divinity of Jesus Christ as the faith of the Church professes it, in the reality and strength of his human and historical dimension. We ought to present Jesus of Nazareth sharing the life, the hopes and the trials of his people and show that he is the Christ believed, proclaimed and celebrated by the Church."

"To Jesus of Nazareth, aware of his mission: announcer and maker of the kingdom, founder of his Church that has Peter as its visible head; to Jesus Christ presently alive and acting in his Church and in history."

(CELAM [Conference of Latin American Bishops], No. 175-177)

ALL TO JESUS THROUGH MARY ALL TO MARY FOR JESUS

Following the presentation of the creed, the Statutes develop thematically its structure of leadership and the role of the retreat experience in the life of the community, which are ministerial expressions of both their articulated characteristics and their creed.

The leadership of JPC is organized with a general coordinator of the local community, coordinators of each ministry operative in the community, and representatives to assist the coordinators in their leadership. The leader, either male or female, is primarily responsible for the life of the community in its fidelity to evangelizing self and others in Christ. This involves the development of lay leaders in JPC, responsible for guiding the life of the community.

Cada dia se ve mas la necesidad de lideres laicos que puedan dar la Palabra, presidir asambleas de oración y conducir al Pueblo de Dios en un estilo de vida cristiano. Ademas la revaloración del papel laico en la Iglesia y la necesidad de una vida mas vigorosa y responsable del Pueblo de Dios nos imponen el deber de responder a los llamodos que Dios nos esta haciendo a traves de las experiencias de liderazgo (coordinador) en Jovenes Para Cristo.

(Every day one sees the necessity of lay leaders who are able to give the Word, preside at assemblies of prayer and lead the People of God in a style of Christian life. Also the re-valuing of the role of the laity in the Church and the necessity of a more vigorous and responsible life of the People of God imposes on us the obligation of responding to the calls that God is giving us through the experiences of leadership (coordinator) in JPC.)

This leadership is based in the renovation of the Sacraments of Initiation; baptism, confirmation and eucharist. It is based in the experience of the necessity of being faithful to the identity of baptism and the gifts of the Spirit given in these initiation sacraments. It is the role of the leader to respond to the call of God to lead others in that very same renovation of their sacraments. All service is toward that end, and JPC is focused and structured around the Christ that has been given to those evangelized and incorporated into Christ through the sacraments.

Based on this understanding, the Statutes list five false or incomplete visions of the nature of JPC:

- 1. JPC should not be utilized to further one's own goals and interests, no matter how good they might be. Its aim is fidelity to the call of God in Christ, nothing else.
- 2. JPC should not be used to increase community devotion or parish liturgical life.
- 3. JPC should not be seen as a solution to various social problems.

⁹ Appendix C.

- 4. JPC should not be seen as the new wave, as something currently in fashion.
- 5. JPC should not be seen as a new pastoral technique for the changing of one's life, or for moral improvement. While each of these things might be good in and of themselves, they do not address the central point of JPC.

JPC finds its origin and true sense in the youth retreat of Christian Initiation. This is "La Renovación de los Sacramentos de Iniciación Cristiana" (the renovation of the sacraments of Christian Initiation). 10 Its aim is to make new that which already exists in the individual and the community, to bring it strength and life. Therefore, JPC is defined as:

- A) Una proclamación de la palabra con poder.
- B) Una respuesta de conversión continua a Jesús, Señor y Salvador.
- C) Construcción de comunidad de personas comprometidas en la fe.
- D) Testimonio con poder de la salvación para el mundo.
- El Señor nos esta animando con el poder de su Espiritu a redescubrir el significado profundo de la Evangelización. Por el Kerygma hemos escuchado la proclamación de la palabra con poder y experimentando la salvación de Jesús en nuestras vidas. Por medio de este anuncio Dios nos ha invitado a una conversion personal y comunitaria. Hemos vivido una renovación de los Sacramentos de Iniciación en nuestra vida.
- [A] A proclamation of the Word with power.
- B) An answer of continual conversion to Jesus, Lord and Savior.
- C) The making of a community of persons committed in the faith.
- D) Testimony with power of salvation for the world.

¹⁰ Appendix C.

The Lord has animated us with the power of his Spirit to rediscover the profound meaning of Evangelization. Through the kerygma we have heard the proclamation of the word with power and have experienced the salvation of Jesus in our lives. By way of this announcement God has invited us to a personal and communal conversion. We have lived a renovation of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation in our life.]

For JPC, faith in Christ is a living faith, based on the renewal of the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and eucharist. They are strong in insisting that the focus of this faith is Jesus and caution, as has been seen above in the incomplete visions of JPC, in mistaking any of the products or elements of JPC for its central point and aim: evangelization of the power of God in Christ through the renovation of initiation sacraments.

JPC is not to be seen as a separate church, or a superchurch. It is a group called within the church to live and
serve through the gifts of the Spirit of God given to the
group and the individuals within the group. They are clear in
stating that JPC is at the service of the parish and the
diocese, working together in accomplishing the call of the
People of God. JPC sees itself as a gift of God for the
Church, one that must be given to the Church. Therefore, they
aim to bring the community to the service of the parish and
diocese and form the concrete aims of the community according
to the understanding and aim of the Church.

The motive and strength for such service is based on the

¹¹ Appendix C.

encounter of the individual and group with the gifts of the Spirit. The response of the individual and the groups to these gifts is that of continual conversion to Jesus Christ that community be formed and salvation proclaimed. This conversion is accomplished through two principal means: the retreat and the community formed from the retreat. The Statutes and the discussion conducted with the members of JPC at St. Joseph Parish, Santa Ana, describe the nature of both.

As described in the transcript of the discussion this author had with members of St. Joseph Parish JPC, and noted in the retreat schedule for their twelfth retreat. 12 the themes of the retreat present a conversion experience to Christ in the renewal of the sacraments and the gifts of the Spirit. The titles of the retreat talks indicate such. The first talk presents the love of God. The second deals with the reality of sin. Thirdly, in response to sin the solution is Jesus. This is followed by the question of faith and conversion. These talks lead to reconciliation (confession). After reconciliation, the Lordship of Jesus is reflected upon, along with the return Jesus seeks from us in a talk entitled auction. 13 This culminates in a meal experience Saturday evening in which each experience and acknowledge the many ways Jesus feeds. The next day four talks are given. They are: the

¹² See Appendix D, interview with author, and Appendix F, Jovenes Para Cristo Retreat Schedule.

¹³ See Appendix F of St. Joseph JPC Meeting Transcript for a description of the talk <u>La Subasta</u>, "auction."

promise of the Father; the promise is for you; pardon and prayer for the effusion of the Holy Spirit; and, filled with the Spirit and its fruits. All of this then culminates in a closing mass with the celebration of, and reception of, the eucharist.

This retreat experience is centered in conversion to Christ and reception of the gifts of the Spirit in service of evangelization and continual conversion. One essential expression of this is the renewal of the sacraments of initiation, as seen in the focus of the various talks. The retreat is designed to lead to the second area in which these central experiences of JPC are continued, that of the life of the community formed in the retreat.

Following the retreat, the individual is invited to join the JPC community. That community meets every Friday evening and those who have "lived" their retreat, as well as any other joven, is invited to attend. The life of the community is served and structured by its various ministries. Each person who has been on a retreat is invited to join one of these ministries, which meet each Wednesday evening to prepare themselves for the various works of the community. Those who belong to one of the ministries belong to the Escuela de Discipulado (school of discipleship), which is organized around a general coordinator and the coordinators of the various ministries of the community. In St. Joseph Parish, there are four ministries: the Pastoreo, the Coro, Detention

and Servicio. These ministries have three primary responsibilities: (1) they are to conduct the general meetings of the entire membership of JPC; (2) they are to serve the needs of the local parish to which they belong, both service to the activities of the parish and social service to the poor and needy living near the parish; and (3) they conduct the next retreat. With such organization, the JPC sustains a process of continual conversion, serves the needs of the larger community, and takes responsibility for continual retreats, thereby continuing the process of conversion of ever greater numbers.

The ministry of Pastoreo is primarily responsible for the spiritual content and life of the retreat and Friday evening general meetings. As with the other ministries, those involved with the Pastoreo meet each Wednesday for spiritual growth and specific preparation for the next task of the ministry. This ministry prepares members of the community to give some of the talks on the retreat (some outside the local parish JPC community also are invited to give talks). It also works with its members to lead the prayer and some of the talks at the general meetings.

The ministry of Coro is responsible for singing throughout the retreat, singing at each general meeting, and being the choir for one of the parish Sunday masses. Song is a central way that the message of Christ is shared.

The ministry of Detención¹⁴ takes responsibility for the social services to the larger community. As Benigno Hernandez said:

There is only one service in our community, called detention. They are the ones dedicated to go to the prisoners, the jails, the hospitals to visit the sick, and every month they go to the street where they share money, clothing, jackets, food . . . chocolate, bread. Visiting the people who are and, of course, all of the community goes with them sometimes. This is called detention. 15

Finally, the ministry of Servicio is responsible for the practical needs of each retreat. Those involved in Servicio prepare the site, form a kitchen crew to provide meals, and generally take responsibility for the practical organization of the retreat.

What is seen in the organization of JPC is that its emphasis is on continual conversion to Christ and evangelization of others to that same experience. The nature of JPC can also be seen in the material given from the third encuentro that took place in August of 1989. One sees in the brief description of the history and aim of JPC, and in the workshops offered throughout the encuentro, the goal and organization of JPC. 16

All of this is represented visually in the drawing of the

¹⁴ Currently there is a movement to change the name of this ministry to Presos Para Cristo. This is to clarify and distinguish this ministry of JPC from the official detention ministry of the Diocese.

¹⁵ Appendix D.

¹⁶ Appendix E.

cover of the book given at the <u>encuentro</u> (which also was made into a "T-shirt") for the participants. There one sees that the Jovenes Para Cristo walk under the gifts of the Spirit, centered in the sacraments, in union with the Pope and the Virgin Mary. 17

Jovenes Para Cristo represents a viable model of ministry in the Mexican Catholic community. Clearly that is true as it was begun in that community by Mexican Catholics and is currently successfully growing in that community. In addition, it represents an important ministerial model because it serves well the aspects of Mexican Catholicism seen above, as well as incorporating the pastoral objectives Deck feels important for ministry in the Hispanic community.

In agreement with the aspects of Mexican Catholicism studied above, one notes that for JPC, God is truly real. As stated in the creed and evidenced in the various spiritual practices of the community, God is an active power, present in his Spirit, the sacraments, and the life of the Church. One reason for the success seen in the movement is that it provides an encounter with a God who the people know as real but whose power and love are often seen as distant from them as individuals. Secondly, the one participating in JPC is an active participant in an active spirit world. Closely related

¹⁷ See Appendixes C and F for the motto: "All to Jesus through Mary. All to Mary for Jesus." This is present on the typed schedule for the retreat and within the creed contained in the Statutes.

to the first aspect, involvement in JPC enables the individual to encounter the power and love of the positive force of the Holy Spirit. Thirdly, access to God and the spirit world is, for JPC, through sacramental life and popular religiosity. The centrality of the sacraments in the retreat experience, and the acknowledged importance of the Virgin Mary, point to sacraments and popular religiosity as giving access to God and their place in ministry enabling both these contacts with God to be affirmed and continued. Finally, precisely as JPC enables these aspects, it continues the mestizaje that characterizes Mexican Catholicism, as has been studied above.

Jovenes Para Cristo also works toward many of the pastoral objectives highlighted by Allan Figueroa Deck. repeat, they are: sacramentalization, conscientization and empowerment, the establishment of basic ecclesial communities, parish renewal, ongoing conversion, the formation of lay leadership, youth ministry, and pastoral de conjunto. The presentation of JPC given above shows its emphasis on sacramentalization and conscientization and empowerment. With its formation of groups of ministry and service, its goal of finding definition and support in community, and its focus on the development of leadership produced from its membership, it accomplishes the aim of the basic ecclesial communities. It effects parish renewal, although it is clear that this is not its central aim. The presence of ongoing conversion in the JPC experience is obvious, as is the formation of lay leadership and youth ministry. Finally, it facilitates and accomplishes <u>pastoral de conjunto</u> as it strives to work with parish and diocesan leaders to form together the objective of evangelization and work together in its realization.

For these reasons, the youth movement Jovenes Para Cristo can be seen as an important expression and experience of Mexican Catholicism. It not only provides an expression of the characteristics of Mexican Catholicism described in the interview process and seen in its Spanish and indigenous religious antecedents. It also responds to the aims presented by Virgilio Elizondo and Allan Figueroa Deck as they see the importance of the Mexican faith experience growing and, therefore, needing effective and respectful ministerial service. Jovenes Para Cristo represents a model for ministry that the community itself has developed, a model that is itself an expression of the faith that it serves. For these reasons, it should be understood and emulated.

Chapter 6

Conclusion

This study began with two starting points: (1) the understanding that the Catholic community in Southern California is significantly a Mexican Catholic community, with that reality increasing as immigration increases; and (2) the presumption that Mexican Catholicism has characteristics that differ from the Catholicism of the United States. Both convictions indicated the need for a study of Mexican Catholicism, highlighting some central aspects of its faith experience. Such has been the goal of this study.

The method was essentially to let Mexican Catholicism speak for itself, thereby avoiding, as much as possible, the facile and incorrect evaluations of the outsider. Each step of this study involved such respectful listening. The interview process was developed in consultation with Mexican Catholics, was conducted by Mexican Catholics, and sought input from Mexican Catholics. The study presumes that the Spanish and Nahuatl antecedents of Mexican Catholicism were formative. They were consequently studied at length. This formed the context for understanding the theological and pastoral reflections of two significant theologians reflecting within the Mexican Catholic community in the United States. Finally, Jovenes Para Cristo was examined as a model for ministry,

again based upon the reported experience of that community of Mexican Catholics, using its source documents, and reflections of members, to understand what it emphasizes as important.

The result of this study was a presentation of the importance of popular religiosity and sacramental practice in the Mexican Catholic community, seen in the interviews and reflected upon in the context of its religious antecedents, current theological reflection, and pastoral practice. It is hoped that this study illuminates the spiritual horizon of Mexican Catholicism and enables a greater understanding of some of its spiritual practices. It is understood, however, that this study has been limited in its focus and, naturally, leads one to further questions concerning Mexican Catholicism.

While the possibilities for further questions are many, this study suggests three basic categories for continued reflection. The first is the experience of acculturation of the Mexican community in the United States and the impact of that reality on faith. The second is the question of the nature of the Catholicism of the United States, its faith experiences and practices. The third is the relationship of Mexican Catholicism with the current experiences Catholicism in Latin America, specifically its relationship with liberation theology. These three categories important as the Mexican Catholic community is influenced by the culture of the United States, the Catholic Church of the United States, and, the theological and ecclesiological

reflections of the Latin American Church. Questions must be asked regarding the spirituality of Mexican Catholicism not only in terms of its traditional emphasis and its relationship with the Catholicism of the United States, but also its relationship with current pastoral reflection throughout Latin America.

The first guestion reflects upon the issue of acculturation, with its consequences for faith development and pastoral practice. Current study seems to indicate that the Mexican community is not following the presumed pattern of the "melting pot" model. Allan Deck refers to the studies of Joseph Fitzgerald (a noted expert in the field of Puerto Rican immigration) and those of S. Dale McLemore and Ricardo Romo to note differences in this immigration experience from the previous experiences of immigration. Fitzgerald indicates that this is a time of "cultural pluralism," which contrasts with the dynamics of the melting pot model. McLemore and Romo note that the experience of assimilation also differs.

To be sure, the continued bilingualism of the Mexican Americans, the probable presence of discrimination against them in employment, the comparative slowness of their political penetration, and the regional variations in their intermarriage rates each depart from the expected "normal" pattern of assimilation. It seems clear, moreover, that Mexican Americans have chosen not to discard their ethnic heritage. Most of them appear determined to find a middle way wherein American culture may be added to, rather than substituted for, their own heritage. 1

¹ Deck, <u>Second Wave</u>, 21.

Both Milton M. Gordon's Assimilation in American Life: The Role of Race, Religion and National Origin, and Chicano Ethnicity, by Susan Keefe and Amado Padilla demonstrate the same insights. Gordon developed the model of "cultural pluralism" to define the patterns of assimilation and the diversity with those patterns.² He found that assimilation exists along a continuum from acculturation to amalgamation and that continued differences in race, religion and national origin keep various groups from complete amalgamation (the of assimilation). ultimate aim Gordon observes acculturation takes place which allows inter-cultural relationships. However, these are for the most part of a and public nature (what he calls formal "secondary relationships") while the informal and personal relationships ("primary relationships") are generally contained by one's cultural identity and sustained by a distinct social network. Consequently, "cultural pluralism" is the result.

Observing the ethnicity of Mexican Americans in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties in California in the mid 1980s, Keefe and Padilla found the same cultural pluralism. They saw that the patterns of family relationships in the Mexican immigration process differed from that of the Anglo.

² Milton M. Gordon, <u>Assimilation in American Life: The Role of Race, Religion and National Origin</u> (New York: Oxford University Press, 1964), 32.

³ Susan Keefe and Amado Padilla, Chicano Ethnicity (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1987), 129.

Specifically, while the first generation of Mexican immigrants developed a strong network of friends due to dislocation from family, within a few generations the family network as the primary relationship network had been re-established, in contrast to the predominant cultural pattern of family relationships in the United States. Specifically, this was seen in the areas of greater contact for the Mexican American with his extended family and the greater emphasis on spatial proximity within the family (living near one another).

These sociological studies indicate both change and continuity in the Mexican community in the United States. The obvious question that follows, concerning the faith experience of Mexican Catholicism, is how continuity and change is found in the faith experience of Mexican Catholicism in the United States? It would be simplistic to suggest that pastoral practice should be formed solely upon the practices of Mexico without taking into account the current context for that faith. However, it would be equally simplistic to suggest that the goal of pastoral ministry in the Mexican Catholic community in the United States should be that of complete cultural and religious assimilation. The sociological studies indicate that the nature of Mexican acculturation is much too complicated for a simplistic response. So, what should be the response? And, how must pastoral practice and ministry be adapted as members of the Mexican Catholic community find themselves at various points in their relationship with the

cultures of Mexico and the United States?4

The second set of questions concerns the nature of the Catholicism of the United States. How does one understand that Catholicism, its heritage and current experience of faith? An appreciation of the complexity of Catholicism in another culture leads one by necessity to appreciate the complexity of Catholicism in one's own culture.

One work that is helpful in its description of Catholicism in the United States is <u>The Catholic Myth: The Behavior and Beliefs of American Catholics</u>, by Andrew M. Greeley.⁵ In the process of presenting the characteristics of American Catholicism,⁶ Greeley critiques attitudes and practices, among the laity and clergy, that do not support the basic conviction of American Catholics. This conviction is that they like being Catholic because Catholicism offers a sacramental imagination and a poetic language that allows one to understand the complexity of human existence. In his final chapter of this book, entitled "The Quest for Grace," he

⁴ See Frank Colborn, <u>Theology in the Borderlands</u>, unpublished manuscript, 1986. He offers a developed examination of ministry and theological reflection in view of such cultural and religious questions.

⁵ Andrew M. Greeley, <u>The Catholic Myth: The Behavior and Beliefs of American Catholics</u> (New York: Scribner & Sons, 1990).

⁶ Due to its ambiguity, the term "American Catholicism," as meaning U. S. Catholicism, has been avoided. Latin American Catholicism is also an "American Catholicism." In describing Greeley's position, however, his use of the term will be followed.

offers this summary:

The thesis of this volume is easily summarized: Catholics remain Catholic because they like being Catholic - that is, because they are loyal to the poetry of Catholicism - even if they might not use quite those terms to describe the reasons for their continued affiliation.⁷

He describes this Catholic poetry in the broad sense to include all of the experiences, images and stories of the Catholic tradition. These provide the possibility of a "sacramental imagination" which is the richness of Catholicism and the reason American Catholics continue in their Catholic affiliation. His work asks American Catholics to appreciate this richness, understand it as their richness, and also understand the ways it is undervalued in American culture, ecclesial policy, and contemporary theology. Here is it best to quote Greeley at some length:

This model of a religious tradition, poetry enveloping prose, may seem odd to those whose perspective on religion, especially their own religion, is purely reflective. However, they must understand that for most of Christian history, most people had very little prose religion and very much poetic religion. Even today, reflective religion is probably less important in the religious lives of most people than are the prior and more powerful components of a religious tradition such as experiences, images, and stories.

To repeat a caveat from the beginning of the book, I do not deny that it is the function of reflective religion to critique imaginative religion. I do assert, however, that it is also the responsibility of reflective religion to listen closely to imaginative religion. When it fails to do so, it loses its ability to critique because it does

⁷ Greeley, 272.

not know what it is talking about.8

After alluding to various examples, among them the Mexican tradition of devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, he continues:

The poetry of the Catholic tradition, one realizes, is rich and powerful and fertile; it is also a mix of various components, some of which are more immediately acceptable than other components. Would it not be more simple to reject everything that was not explicitly Christian? To abandon all attempts to baptize paganism? Sure it would. That's what the Vatican thought when it terminated the Jesuit experiments in Asia, with tragic results. But such rejections violate the Catholic instinct that God lurks everywhere and that we must find his self-disclosure wherever we can. . .

I have argued in this book that the parish, the priest, the local community, and especially the lover are metaphors for God which have great power and durability in the Catholic tradition. . . I have further contended that it is the power of this poetry, of this system of metaphors, which - at the level of the preconscious - is the basic reason Catholics like being Catholic.

Greeley has, in this work, called the American Catholic community to be appreciative of the poetry of its sacramental imagination, communicated through its sacramental involvement and its popular religious traditions. His aim is not that the Catholic community attempt to re-appropriate metaphors of story and image that have lost their power. Rather, he seeks a recognition of the Catholic instinct that draws the Catholic community both to appreciate those metaphors that still have power and to be open to new images that might speak to the

⁸ Greeley, 273.

⁹ Greeley, 276.

Catholic poetic imagination.

Greeley is clear that this involves risk, and that mistakes can be made, both in adopting inappropriate metaphors and in not allowing new metaphors to take their place in the Catholic imagination.

If a religious tradition commits itself to metaphor (for which another word is analogy) then it has to be open to all possible metaphors and to be willing to judge each one as it comes along, aware that some unsuitable metaphors cannot be resisted, and that the suitability of others will be certain only after the passage of time, and that finally the rejection of still other metaphors may be a catastrophic mistake. Catholicism is a religious tradition that is enthralled by metaphors and at the same time constantly uneasy about the metaphors that it finds itself using.

This is a very different notion of Catholicism than the one that is contained in the catechisms or in New York Times dispatches from the Vatican. Nonetheless, once one realizes how important the poetic envelope is for Catholicism, one comprehends how apposite such a description is. I offer this model not as a subtitle for other - and more "prosaic" - models of Catholics but as a complement them. This "poetic" model, I contend, particularly useful today both because it explains why Catholics remain Catholics and it challenges the Church (in its institutional manifestations) to be more aware of its poetic dimensions and indeed of the power and riches of its poetic tradition. 10

Greeley presents an understanding of the Catholicism of the United States that has strong parallels in Mexican Catholicism and suggests fertile ground for their integration as both participate in the strong tradition of the poetry of the sacramental imagination. Questions present themselves,

¹⁰ Greeley, 276-77.

however. Do the religious images of these cultures differ? How does cultural context determine the efficacy of a specific metaphor? Can the metaphors of one tradition speak to the other? How should ministry appropriately encourage the sacramental imagination in both cultures and yet present critiques where necessary? How is this determined and then pastorally implemented? Are there differing religious questions in these cultures? Does the sacramental imagination differ according to a distinct context or due to separate religious questions? Greeley's work presents characteristics of the Catholicism of the United States that have strong similarities with the Mexican Catholicism this study has presented. How one evaluates differences between these two religious experiences, and the extent of these differences, is an important area of further study. An operative presumption of this study has been that such differences exist, due to the differing religious and cultural histories of Mexico and the United States.

Finally, insofar as the Mexican Church is a Latin American Church, one must ask how any analysis of characteristics of its spirituality relates to the central ecclesiological questions of much of the Church throughout Latin America. As Marcello dec. Azevedo presents in his work Basic Ecclesial Communities in Brazil: The Challenge of a New Way of Being Church, the Second Vatican Council, in its "Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World"

(<u>Gaudium et Spes</u>), initiated dialogue with the modern world, addressing both its possibilities and its destructive tendencies. This presented the general context for the Latin American Church to reflect upon the "signs of the times" as present in Latin America.

It is within this general context that we come to the threshold-experience behind theological reflection in Latin America: the finding that there was a <u>radical poverty</u> on our continent, in the whole Third World, and sometimes even in the First and Second Worlds. That poverty is produced, reproduced, and constantly aggravated by the worldwide organization of society, politics, and economics.¹¹

Such radical poverty is the central question of liberation theology. It seeks to critique the causes of such suffering, seeing that this suffering is perpetuated through personal and structural sin. It seeks to articulate a gospel of liberation from sin, in all of its manifestations. It suggests that this liberation is to be found in a "new way of being church," namely the experience of the basic ecclesial communities which are a concrete application of the ecclesial emphasis of the Second Vatican Council which describes the Church as the People of God.

Azevedo presents the centrality of the experience of poverty in theological reflection and ecclesiology as he writes:

The New Posture of Being Church. In many parts

¹¹ Marcello dec. Azevedo, <u>Basic Ecclesial Communities in Brazil: The Challenge of a New Way of Being Church</u> (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1987), 178.

of the world we see two tendencies coming to the fore in the recent posture of the Church: conscious opening to humanity as a whole, and real communion with the true history of human beings. Together they convince us that this poverty cannot be viewed as a natural fatality. It is the result of egotism, which translates into active, effective injustice. As such, it is not only the unbalancing of due equity but also the unequivocal negation of love and truth. From a Christian perspective, such injustice perverts and subverts the plan of God and the dignity and destiny of humanity. Thus its end result, poverty as the fruit of injustice, bears within it the mark of sin. All this pervades the organization of society and the very structure of its project. It equally affects the culture of these regions at its very roots insofar as that culture assimilates and passes down unjust patterns from generation to generation, presenting them as obvious and inevitable. Those patterns or standards improper passivity, submissiveness. inferiority, dissatisfaction and mistrust vis-á-vis what is one's own, and the self-negation of subservient, chaotic mimicry. This is the harsh reality that the Church is experiencing in Brazil and all of Latin America. And since our continent has a Catholic majority, the experience is unique in the worldwide Church. This explains the new, urgent solicitude of the Church in its pastoral work and the accompanying theological reflection. 12

This striking description of the effects of poverty, the sin which produces it, and the attitudes it forms are essential for questions of spirituality and ministry in a Mexican Catholic community, with the profound poverty that this community suffers. While the theological question of poverty has not been the focus of this study, it cannot be overlooked. Questions to be explored concern: the relationship between traditional Mexican Catholic spirituality and the questions posed by liberation theology; the role of

¹² Azevedo, 182-83.

sacramental practice and popular religiosity in the experience of liberation; and the mission of the Mexican Catholic community to the culture and Church of the United States vis-á-vis the theological consequences of poverty.

Needless-to-say, many more questions present themselves. It is the very richness of Mexican Catholicism that produces such possibilities. This study has been an attempt to understand some central elements of Mexican Catholicism through a methodology of listening. It is hoped that this articulation of that process of listening will serve others in their appreciation of Mexican Catholicism and service to that community.

APPENDIX A - INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

A. BELIEF

1. SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES

- a. Do you feel God in your life?
- b. Cold you describe one or two ways you feel God?
- c. What do you think are the common ways that people experience God?

2. FOCUS OF PRAYER

- a. When you pray, do you pray to God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin, or one of the saints?
- b. If you pray to Mary, which devotion of Mary do you pray? (Our Lady of . . . ?)
- c. If you pray to a saint, which saint or saints do you pray to?

3. WORDS AND ACTIONS OF PRAYER

- a. Do you pray in your own words or use formal prayers?
- b. Which prayers do you say?
- c. Do you feel that you know how to pray?
- d. Who taught you how to pray?
- e. Are there actions that accompany your prayers? What are they? What do they mean?

4. REASONS FOR PRAYER

- a. What do you think is the reason(s) that people pray?
- b. What needs do you generally bring to prayer?
- c. Are there specific saints you bring special needs to?
- d. Are there actions or promises you feel you need to perform as parts of your prayers?
- e. Do you feel that giving things or promising things to God or the Virgin is an important part of prayer? Why is it important?

5. SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES (II)

- a. Do you think that Catholics believe there are spirits or apparitions other than God and the saints?
- b. Do you think that spirits such as these touch their lives?
- c. Have you ever heard of a friend or family member who has had an experience of another kind of spiritual force or spirit?
- d. Have you ever experienced another spiritual force or presence?
- e. What was that experience like?
- f. What do people do when they have this type of experience?

6. BEING CATHOLIC

- a. Could you describe why you are Catholic?
- b. Do you know anyone who has decided not to be Catholic? Who has joined another Church?
- c. Why do you think that they made that choice?

B. DEVOTIONAL PRACTICES

- 1. DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS
 - a. What are the reasons for having a child baptized?
 - b. What are the reasons for having a person make his first communion?
 - c. What are the reasons for receiving communion as an adult?
 - d. What are the reasons for going to Mass every Sunday?
 - e. When should a person go to confession? How often should a person go to confession?
 - f. What are the reasons for being married in the Church?
 - g. Who is chosen to be the sponsors for these sacraments?
 - h. Why are they chosen?
 - i. What are the sponsors' responsibilities for each of the sacraments?
 - -baptism?
 - -first communion?
 - -confirmation?
 - -marriage?

2. SACRAMENTAL PRACTICES

- a. Have you, and the members of your family, received:
 - -baptism?
 - -confirmation?
 - -first communion?
 - -confession?
 - -marriage? (if no, is it because they are single or married civilly?)
 - -ancinting of the sick?
- b. Do you, and the members of your family, go to mass every Sunday? If not, how often?
- c. Do you go to communion when you go to Mass? If not, what are the reasons that a person would not go to communion?
- d. How often do the members of your family go to confession?

3. PRAYER TO MARY AND THE SAINTS

- a. Does your family have any times during the day that they pray?
- b. What prayers does your family say?
- c. How often do you pray as a family?
- d. Does your family have any special devotions?
- e. What devotions during the year are important to you?
- f. What religious art do you have in your home?
- g. Does that religious art have a special place in the prayers of your family?

- C. RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH
- 1. OPINIONS OF LOCAL PARISHES
 - a. Do you think that most Catholics belong to a particular parish?
 - b. Do you feel that you belong to a specific parish?
 - c. How do you compare the parish to which you currently belong to other parishes to which you have belonged?
 - d. What do you like about your parish?
 - e. Would you make any suggestions to your parish?

2. PARISH RESPONSIVENESS TO SPIRITUAL NEEDS

- a. Do you feel that your spiritual needs are being served by your parish?
- b. What do you think a parish needs to do or offer to serve one's spiritual needs?
- c. Does your parish do those things?
- d. Can you describe two experiences or events in your parish that nourished you spiritually?

3. PARISH RESPONSIVENESS TO ETHNIC AND LANGUAGE GROUPS

- a. Do you feel welcome at your parish?
- b. Do you feel that the parish is responsiveness to you ethnic or language group?
- c. Have you ever had any difficulty at your parish do to language or cultural differences?
- d. What do you think a parish needs to do or to offer to be responsive to language or cultural needs?

4. OPINIONS REGARDING PRIESTS

- a. What are three general ideas or attitudes that you think people have about priests?
- b. What kind of relationship do you think a Catholic should have with a priest?
- c. Do people feel comfortable or afraid of priests? Why?
- d. Describe the best priest(s) that you have known. Why was he the best?
- e. Describe a difficult experience that you have had with a priest?
- f. What do you think that people need from priests?

5. OPINIONS OF THE PASTORAL SERVICE PEOPLE ENCOUNTER

- a. Have you specific encounters with your parish priests, and those who work for the Church, been good or difficult?
- b. Could you list three things that you like in your parish, priests, and parish workers?
- c. Is there anything you would like to see the priests or parish workers do differently?
- d. Do you feel that the priests and parish workers you meet understand you and serve you?
- e. Is there anything that you would like your priests and

- parish workers to know and understand?
- f. Have your experiences with those who work for the Church been good or difficult?
- g. What opinions do people have concerning the services they receive from their parishes?

APPENDIX B - INTERVIEW RESULTS

SPRING-FALL 1990

(Responses are listed according to age groups.

"cg" = Church-goer.

"ncg" = non-Church goer.

"n/a" = no answer.)

- A. Creencias
- 1. Experiencias Espirituales (I)
- a. ¿Siente usted que Dios está en su vida?

Todos respondieron: "si." Uno también dijo: "pero hay veces que no, cuando tengo muchas problemas siento que el me ha olvidado." (43ncg)

- b. ¿Me puede explicar una o dos maneras en que siente a Dios en su vida?
- 18-29(ncg) "Porque cuando escucho su palabra siento un gozo inexplicable dentro de mi ser, y también cuando le he pedido que me ayude en cosas que pienso que no tienen remedio y todo ha salido bien, también por que tengo la vida."
- 18-29(cg) "Cuando siento una paz interna que me ayuda a crecer espiritualmente."
- 18-29(cg) "El esta conmigo. Me acompaña y da fortaleza en tiempos malos y también l siento en las cosas buenas que a creado y sigue creando en mi vida."
- 18-29(ncg) "En las cosas buenas que me pasan en lo que me ayude.
- 18-29(cg) "1. su espíritu me guía cada día y me ayuda comprender lo bueno de lo malo.
- 2. Siento su presencia dentro de mi en la luz de todos mis días."
- 22(cg) "En mi forma de tratar a mis semejantes. En el cambio que he dado. Por el hecho de haber dejado las drogas."
- 23(cg) "Cada vez que voy a la iglesia, cada noche cuando persino a mis hijos, en la mañana al comenzar un nuevo día." 23(ncg) "Pido mucho y recibo."
- 24(cg) "Porque el no deja que cosas malas nos pasan, el nos cuida."
- 24(ncg) "Cuando nos pasa algo y tenemos un problema se acuerda uno de El."
- 25(cg) "En todo momento recibo su ayuda y todo lo que me propongo hacer sale bien, pues El siempre esta conmigo."
- 26(cg) "Que están pasando muchas cosas buenas (por ejemplo: que mi esposo está cambiando, que ya tenemos un poco más de dinero) y yo sé que está (Dios) conmigo."
- 31(ncg) "Porque siento que me ayuda en todo."
- 32(cg) "Mi forma de vivir es diferente a la de antes de conocer a Dios."
- 32(cg) "Siento que he cambiado bastante en mi manera de pensar

- y de actuar. Siento más alegría a gusto al hacer oración." 43(ncg) "Cuando todo en mi vida va bien." 43(ncg) "Quiero a mi familia, el amor por el prójimo, mi salud, el tener el pan de cada día." 45(cg) "Al respirar al ver y en la vida misma que tengo." 30-50(ncg) "en que tenemos vida y fe." 30-50(cg) "en que tenemos vida y nos da que comer." 30-50(cg) "1. Dios me hace muchas cosas 2. Al despertad uno vi la voluntad en cada persona - Dios nos da la luz del día y Dios nos realiza todo lo que pedimos." 30-50((ncg) "Porque me va bien en la vida y porque pienso en el." 50(cg) "No." 50+(ncq) "porque nunca me siento sola a pesar de ser viuda y con 5 hijos. Me ha hecho milagro." 50+(cg) "1. en que me da fortalezas para seguir día a día. 2. me da un sentido en mi vida." 50+(cg) "En los problemas y en las alegrías." 50+(ncg) "De joven sentía a Dios en mi vida y era cantor en la iglesia, ya no." 54(cg) "en la fe que siempre he tenido, cada vez que rezo." 54(ncg) "Cada vez que rezo y pienso en lo que Dios me ha dado." 55 (ncg): "Cuando tengo problema le pido a Dios y siento mucho descanso. Lo siento vive en mí." 59(cg) "siento en mi alma que esta con nosotros." 60(cg): "en forma de vivir." 62(cg): "El siempre (h)a estado a mi lado en tiempos de mis enfermedades, cuando me operaron de el corazón y cuando estaba enferma de el hígado que ya mero me moría." ?(cg): "cuando despierto a un nuevo día, cuando veo el sol y la luna, cuando veo a un niño recién nacido, cuando veo las flores."
- c. ¿Cuáles piensa usted que son las maneras mas comunes en que la gente siente a Dios?

"Cuando la gente hace oración y escucha

palabra."

18-29(cg) "Cuando me siento bien interiormente, en sus testimonios, también cuando actúo una humildad."

18-29(cg) "Los sienten por las cosas buenas que pasan en sus vidas."

18-29(ncg) "En misa"

18-29(cg) "1) en la comunión. 2) en la oración. 3) en misa."

22(cg) "Circunstancias cuando tienen algún problema, se acuerdan de El. Ejemplo: en la muerte del familiar."

23(cg) "Cada vez que rezan y le piden ayuda, cuando asisten a la iglesia."

23(ncg) "No lo sienten nada mas lo conocen. No sé."

24(cg) "en la salud, Dios nos da buena salud."

24(ncg) "En caso de peligro. Cuando se están muriendo."

18-29 (ncg)

25(cg) "En la vida diaria y en tener una familia unida y poder estar en paz con uno mismo." 26(cg) "Cuando les empiezan a pasar cosas bonitas en sus

vidas."

- 31(ncg) "Cuando necesitan algo."
- 32(cg) "Por la oración o los cantos."
- 32(cq) "Por medio de la oración y la eucaristía, leyendo la biblia."
- 43 (ncg) "al rezar"
- 43(ncg) "Yo siempre siento que el esta a mi lado, el siempre tiene su bendición a mi lado."
- 45(cg) "Cuando llega la muerte y tiene muchos problemas que no puede solucionar."
- 30-50(ncg) "en su seres quererlos en la iglesta." 30-50(ncg) "en todas partes esta con uno."
- 30-50(cg) "En que ellos vivan unidos a Dios y que se dediquen leer la biblia ya pedir a Dios. Si tienen la fe, y le piden y el las da."
- 30-50(ncg) "Pensando en el."
- 50(cg) "No se."
- 50+(ncg) "por medio de la fe."
- 50+(cg) "En las alegrías y tristezas"
- 50+(cg) "En los tiempos de angustia y de dolor."
- 50+(ncg) "En su trabajo, en hora de acostarse, al buscarlo." 54(cg) "Cada día que despertamos y El Señor nos da el pan de cada día, buena salud."
- 54 (ncg) "En las maneras que uno siente el amor por el, sin conocerlo."
- 55(ncg) "Cuando lo necesita uno."
- 59(cg) "cuando va al templo se siente uno mas cerca a Dios." 60(cg) "Recibiendo la Comunión."
- 62(cg) "Cuando la gente esta enferma, o tiene a algún familiar enfermo, o tiene una necesidad y se encomienda a el o ruega a
- ?(cg) "cuando tiene salud o esta enfermo, cuando tiene una alegría o tristeza."
- 2. Enfoque de las Oraciones
- a. ¿Cuando reza, le reza a Dios Padre, a Jesús, al Espíritu Santo, a la Virgen, ó a uno de los santos?
- 18-29(ncg) "Le rezo a Dios Padre."
- 18-29(cg) "Rezo a Dios Padre, Dios Hijo y Dios Espíritu Santo, también a la Virgen."
- 18-29(cg) "A Dios Padre y a Jesús."
- 18-29 (ncg) "Dios Padre"
- "Principalmente a Dios Padre, Hijo, y Espíritu 18-29 (cg) Santo. A La Virgen María un poco. A los santos no."
- 22(cg): "Dios Padre, Jesús y Virgen María algunas veces al Espíritu Santo."
- 23(cg) "Dios Padre, Jesús, y la Virgen."
- 23(ncg) "a Jesús y Dios, santos de vez y cuando y Virgen

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María, Michael Archangel, apóstoles"
24(cg) "A Dios Padre."
24(ncg) "Dios Padre"
25(cg) "Siempre les rezo a todos."
26(cg) "A todos"
31(ncg) "Dios Padre y la Virgen" 32(cg) "en general"
32(cg) "Por medio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo hacia el Padre."
43(ncg) "A Dios Padre."
43(ncg) "A Dios Padre, el Espíritu Santo."
45(cg) "A Dios Padre y al Espíritu Santo."
30-50(ncg) "A Jesús y Dios Padre y la Virgen."
30-50(cg) "A Dios Padre y la Virgen de Guadalupe."
30-50(cg) "Dios Padre, hijo, y el espíritu Santo."
30-50(ncg) "Dios Padre y al Jesús."
50(cg) "A Dios Padre, A Jesús, Al Espíritu Santo y al la
Virgen María."
50+(ncg) "a Jehová Dios por medio de su hijo."
50+(cg) "Principalmente a Dios Padre."
50+(cg) "Primero al Padre, luego a Cristo y después a la
Virgen."
50+(ncg) "Virgen"
54(cg) "Dios Padre, y la Virgen de Guadalupe."
54(ncg) "Al Espíritu Santo y a la Virgen."
55(ncg) "Dios Padre y la Virgen - más a la Virgen."
59(cg) "Virgen, Dios nuestro Señor, a todos los santos,
sagrado corazón."
60(cg) "en general y Perpetuo Socorro."
62(cg) "a todos"
?(cg) "Le rezo a Dios y a su Santisima Madre"
b. ¿Si le reza a la Virgen, a cual Virgen?
18-29 (ncg) n/a
18-29(cg) "Si a la Virgen María."
18-29(cg) "No rezo a la Virgen."
18-29(ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Virgen María."
22(cg) "La Virgen María."
23(cg) "A la Virgen de Guadalupe."
23(ncg) "Virgen María"
24(cg) "La Virgen de Guadalupe"
24(ncg) "Virgen de Guadalupe"
25(cg) "a la de Guadalupe."
26(cq) "A la Virgen María, ó a la Virgen de Guadalupe (es la
misma)."
31(ncg) "a la de Guadalupe"
32(cg) "A la Virgen María"
32(cg) "A la Virgen de Guadalupe"
43(ncg) "No rezo a la Virgen."
43 (ncg) "No, a ninguna."
45(cg) "a la Virgen de Guadalupe"
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30-50(ncg) "La Virgen María y Guadalupe."
30-50(cg) "La Virgen de Guadalupe."
30-50(cg) "Virgen María y de Guadalupe."
30-50(ncg) "María"
50(cg) "a la Virgen de Guadalupe"
50+(ncg) "A la Virgen María."
50+(cg) "A la Virgen María Madre de Dios."
50+(cg) "A la Virgen de Guadalupe."
50+(ncg) "Virgen de Guadalupe."
54(cg) "A la Virgen de Guadalupe."
54(ncg) "La Virgen de Guadalupe."
55 (ncg) "Virgen María"
59(cg) "Guadalupe"
60(cg) "Virgen milagrosa"
62(cg) "Virgen de Guadalupe"
?(cg) "Virgen de Guadalupe en especial"
c. ¿Si le reza a un santo, a cuál santo o santos le reza?
18-29 (ncg) n/a
18-29(cg) n/a
18-29(cg) "Ninguno."
18-29(ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Ninguno."
22(cg) "No acostumbro rezarle a santos."
23(cg) "No le rezo a santos."
23(ncg) "Ninguno en particular."
24(cg) "a ninguno, no creo en los Santos."
24 (ncg) n/a
25(cg) "Siempre rezo a todos los santos."
26(cg) "Al sagrado corazón, a San Cipriano, Patrón Santiago,
a la güerita de los Remedios, San Ignacio de Loyola (a veces),
San Judas Tadeo."
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "a todos"
32(cg) "A San Francisco de Asís o al Señor San José."
43(ncg) "no le rezo a Santos."
43 (ncg) "Solo le rezo al corazón de Jesús."
45(cg) "a San Martín de Porres"
30-50(ncg) "No"
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y San Francisco de Asís."
30-50(ncg) "No reza a Santos."
50(cg) "no"
50+(ncg) "No rezo a los santos."
50+(cg) "Usualmente, no."
50+(cg) "No rezo a los santos."
50+(ncg) "No rezo a santos."
54(cg) "Solo rezo a Dios y a la Virgen."
54 (ncg) "No le rezo a Santos."
55(ncg) "Al Sagrado Corazón, "Al Patrón Santiago (Michoacan)"
59(cg) "Sagrado Corazón, Dios nuestro Señor."
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60(cg) "Señor San José"
62(cg) "a las animas de el purgatorio, a San Jorge Bendito,
Santa Rosa"
?(cq) "A San José por una buena muerte, al Santo Niño de
Atocha"
3. Palabras y Acciones de las Oraciones
a. ¿Reza en sus propias palabras o rezos que ha aprendido?
18-29(ncg) "Con mis propias palabras."
18-29(cg) "Con mis propias palabras ósea que día a día voy
sintiendo lo que tengo que decir cuando hago oración."
18-29(cg) "Mayoría de tiempo propias palabras."
18-29(ncg) "Propias palabras"
18-29(cg) "de las dos maneras."
22(cg) "Algunos de lo que he aprendido y la mayoría en mis
propias palabras."
23(cg) "Rezo en mis palabras y rezos que he aprendido."
23(ncg) "las dos"
24(cg) "en mis propias palabras."
24(ncg) "rezos que he aprendido"
25(cg) "de las dos formas"
26(cg) "Rezos que he aprendido. (A veces en mis propias
palabras.)"
31(ncg) "rezos que he aprendido"
32(cg) "de las dos maneras"
32(cg) "de las dos maneras"
43(ncg) "mis propias palabras."
43 (ncg) "de los dos modos."
45(cg) "Las oraciones aprendidas durante toda mi vida"
30-50(ncg) "Mis propias palabras y rezos que le aprendido."
30-50(cg) "en rezos que he aprendido yo."
30-50(cg) "En lo que he aprendido."
30-50(ncg) "Propias palabras."
50(cg) "en las dos maneras"
50+(ncg) "Rezo en mis propias palabras. Y el Padre Nuestro." 50+(cg) "De los dos."
50+(cg) "En los dos."
50+(ncg) "Las dos."
        "En mis propias palabras."
54 (cg)
54(ncg) "Con los dos."
55(ncg) "Que he aprendido"
59(cg) "Rezos que mi madre me enseño."
60(cg) "Rezos que he aprendido"
62(cg) "los dos modos."
?(cg) "Rezo de las dos maneras."
b. ¿Cuáles oraciones reza?
18-29 (ncg)
            "Oraciones de agradecimiento, de perdón y de
ayuda."
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18-29(cq) n/a
18-29(cg) "Padre Nuestro, Dios te Salve María."
18-29(ncg) "Padre Nuestro"
18-29(cg) "Padre Nuestro normalmente."
22(cg) "Padre Nuestro, Ave María, Credo"
23(cg) "El Ave María y el Padre Nuestro."
23(ncg) "Padre Nuestro, Ave María, Confesión"
24(cg) "El Padre Nuestro, El Ave María."
24(ncg) "Padre Nuestro, Santa María, Credo (yo, Pecador)
25(cg) "Padre Nuestro, Ave María y el rosario"
26(cg) "Padre Nuestro, Sta. María (Ave María), Ángel de mi
guarda, a San. Jorge Bendito, el Credo, Rezos a las animas del
purgatorio, al niñito Jesús."
31(ncg) "Padre Nuestro. Casi ni rezo."
32(cg) "Padre Nuestro, Ave María, credo."
32(cg) "Oración de San Francisco, Padre Nuestro, Ave María, el
Credo, yo pecador."
43(ncg) "Padre Nuestro, y Ave María."
43(ncg) "Padre Nuestro, Ave María, Oración al Espíritu Santo,
y el Credo."
45(cg) "Padre Nuestro, Ave María."
30-50(ncg) "El Padre Nuestro, Ave María y al Ángel de la
Guarda."
30-50(cg) "El Credo, Padre Nuestro, Ave María."
30-50(cg) "Padre Nuestro, Ave María, Dios te Salve, rezos
pequeños que me se."
30-50(ncg) "Padre Nuestro."
50(cg) "El Padre Nuestro, Dios te salve María, y el Credo"
50+(ncg) "Padre Nuestro."
50+(cg) "El Padre Nuestro, Dios te Salve María, el Credo."
50+(cg) "Padre Nuestro, Ave María, Credo, Acto de Contrición."
50+(ncg) "Ave María, partes del Rosario, Magnifica."
54(cg) "El Padre Nuestro y el Ave María."
54(ncg) "Ave María, Padre Nuestro, mis propias palabras."
55(cg) "Alma de Cristo, Dios concederme la serenidad, Padre
Nuestro, Ave María, Credo."
59(cg) "Credo, Padre Nuestro, Dios te salve."
60(cg) "Padres Nuestros, Ave Marias"
62(cg) "Padre Nuestro, Ave María, Rosario, Señora Mía, Madre
Mía, La Magnifica; Dios te Salve."
?(cg) "Padre Nuestro, Ave María y rezos aprendidos de chica,
al ángel de la Guardia, a la Virgen y a Cristo."
c. ¿Cree que sabe rezar?
18-29(ncg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "Trato."
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(ncg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "Si"
22(cg) "Me falta todavía para aprender. Estoy aprendido."
23(cg) "Si, a mi modo."
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23(ncg) "Si"
24(cg) "No, yo solo pido lo que voy a pedir y doy gracias."
24 (ncg) "No"
25(cq) "Pienso que si."
26(cg) "Si"
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "No sabría desifrarlo"
        "Si, porque siento el sentimiento dentro de mi
32 (cg)
corazón."
43 (ncg) "Yo creo que si."
43(ncg) "Las oraciones que aprendí de niña si, si creo que se
rezar."
45(cg) "si"
30-50(ncg) "No"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "no mucho"
50+(ncg) "Si."
50+(cg) "No"
          "No,
50+(cg)
                 pero
                       se
                            10
                                 suficiente
                                              para
                                                     llenarme
espiritualmente."
50+(ncg) "Solo las oraciones de arriba."
54 (cg)
        "Si"
54(ncg) "Si"
55(ncg) "No. Quisiera saber a rezar bonito y adecuado."
59(cg) "Si."
60(cg) "si"
62(cg) "si"
?(cg) "No muy bien, pero me gusta hablar con Dios y decirle
todo lo que siento y lo que me preocupa, y trato de darle
gracias."
d. ¿Quien le enseño a rezar?
18-29(ncg) "Aprendí escuchando a la gente y también a mi
madre."
18-29(cg) "Yo mismo, lo que siento en mi corazón lo expreso en
mi oración."
18-29 (cg) "Mi mamá."
18-29(ncg) "Mis padres"
18-29(cg) "En misa, y el Espíritu Santo."
22(cg) "Mi abuelita (que es como mi mama)."
23(cg) "Mi abuela, y mi madrina de Comunión."
23(ncg) "en la primera comunión"
24(cg) "nadie, yo solo rezo a mi mc "24(ncg) "Mi mama"
25(cg) "Mi madre y una tía mía."
26(cg) "Mi mama."
31(ncg) "En mi casa. Mi mama."
32(cg) "Mis padres."
32(cg) "Las catequistas en mi rancho primero. En Jóvenes para
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Cristo he aprendido a analizar e instrumentar la oración.
Mi mama también me enseño (ella fue la primera.)"
43(ncg) "Mi madre, cuando era niño."
43(ncg) "en la Iglesia - Doctrina."
45(cg) "Mi madre."
30-50(ncg) "Mis padres y abuelos."
30-50(cg) "maestras de doctrina."
30-50)(cg) "Mi abuelita."
30-50(ncg) "Mis padres, mi mamá."
50(cg) "Mis padres."
50+(ncg) "No me acuerdo."
50+(cg) "Mi mamá."
50+(cg) "Mis familiares."
50+(ncg) "Un señor con quien viví de chico a trabajar de mozo
de casa."
       "Mis padres, mis abuelos."
54 (cg)
54 (ncg) "Mi mamá."
55(ncg) "Su mama y en el catecismo."
59(cg) "Madre."
60(cg) "Mis Padres."
60(cg) "Mi mama y en el colegio católico, y en la Iglesia
cuando era socia de la acción católica cuando era joven."
?(cq) "desde chica, mis padres"
e. ¿Hay acciones u otras cosas que hace cuando reza? ¿Cuales
son? ¿Que significan?
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "La combino con cantos y alabanzas."
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29(cq) "La señal de la cruz = un símbolo, bendición de
Dios."
22(cg) "Si. Me pongo a veces de rodillas; estar con el cirio
encendido (en frente de la imagen.) Rodillas - pidiendo
clemencia a Dios para mi y mi familia. Cirio - es la luz que
es Jesucristo."
23(cg) "Me hinco, me persino, inclino la cabeza."
23(ncg) "sena de la cruz"
24(cg) "no, ninguna acción."
24(ncg) "Me hinco (así me enseñaron).
       "Siempre rezo cuando estoy acostada ó cuando voy
25 (cg)
manejando."
26(cg) "Prendo veladora (siento como que Dios esta mas cerca
de nosotros, como un honor a la promesa hecha cuando pasa el
milagro.). A veces lloro."
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "No"
32(cg) "Cuando estoy orando al Padre, a Jesucristo, me hinco
(ó cuando hay bastante gente que no se puede hincar, de pie.)"
43(ncg) "Solo me persino al principio y al final de mis
oraciones."
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- 43(ncg) "Doy gracias cuando abro las puertas y ventanas de mi casa le pido su misericordia. Le pido que nos cuide a mi como a mi familia." 45(cg) "Si, la novena de La Legión de María." 30-50 (ncg) "No" 30-50(cg) "No" 30-50(cg) "Cantar en misa." 30-50 (ncg) "No" 50(cg) "Las acciones que hago son de dar gracias por sus bendiciones, por los alimentos, por un nuevo día, por la salud, y por muchas otras cosas mas." 50+(ncg) "No hago acciones." 50+(cg) "No." 50+(cg) "A veces me arrodilló. Para mi significa humildad al Señor." 50+(ncg) "No." "Me persino, me hinco, o al rezar a la Virgen, tocamos 54 (cg) su imagen para acercarnos mas a ella." "Me hinco, para enseñan mi respeto a Dios. persino." 55(ncg) "Me hinco a veces. Le pido con mas devoción, con mas sentir." 59(cg) "Hincar enfrente de la Virgen o Sagrado Corazón." 60(cg) "Normalmente" 62(cg) "Si, arrodillarme. Que la oración sea mas valida, que se haga mas sacrificio con la oración." ?(cg) "Me persina, me hinco para expresar a rezar y me hinco por respecto o por sacrificio." 4. Razones para Rezar a. ¿Cual cree que es la razón o razones por las que la gente reza?
- 18-29(ncg) "Pues algunas razones son para agradecerles al Señor por las cosas que nos brinda cada día. Para pedirle perdón por nuestras acciones, y también para pedirle ayuda." 18-29(cg) "Para tener una mejor comunicación con Dios." 18-29(cg) "Para comunicarse con Dios." 18-29 (ncg) "Para sentirse cerca de Dios" 18-29(cg) "Para comunicarse con Dios. Para dar gracias a Dios. Para pedirle a Dios." 22(cg) "Si es una persona que ha tenido una conversión es para adquirir mas fe. Para pedir por algo." 23(cg) "Para darle gracias a Dios, y para pedirle ayuda y protección." 23(ncg) "Fe, falta de animo, necesidad." 24(cg) "Para dar gracias, y para pedir salud, ayuda." 24(ncg) "Porque quiere estar cerca de Dios." 25(cg) "Por amar a Dios y por dar gracias." 26(cg) "Porque Dios les hace milagros." 31(ncg) "No se." 32(cg) "Por la fe que nos fue inculcado.

- 32(cg) "Tenemos un pacto con Dios. Uno recibe fuerza y consuelo para sus problemas y su vida cotidiana. (los que están en la iglesia) Los que no están con la iglesia le rezan solamente cuando tienen un problema."
- 43(ncg) "Yo pienso que la gente reza mas cuando necesitan algo o cuando están pidiendo perdón."
- 43(ncg) "Yo rezo por que es una manera de darle gracias a Dios."
- 45(cg) "Rezan cuando tienen fe en Dios."
- 30-50(ncg) "Para darle gracias a Dios por todo lo que nos ha dado y por estar con nosotros siempre."
- 30-50(cg) "para pedirle a Dios."
- 30-50(cg) "Por el amor que se le tiene a Dios, o en un funeral rezar por esa persona."
- 30-50(ncg) "Para platicar con Dios."
- 50(cg) "Por que siempre debe uno de rezar a Dios y darle gracias por todo."
- 50+(ncg) "Esperando que Dios escuche mi/nuestras oraciones." 50+(cg) "Principalmente para agradecer a nuestro Señor y pedir por nuestros necesidades."
- 50+(cg) "Obligación, costumbre, fe."
- 50+(ncg) "Cuando ellos necesitan de Dios, le rezan, lo usan como un consuelo."
- 54(cg) "Para dar Gracias."
- 54(ncg) "Para dar gracias, hablar con Dios, tener paz, y pedir cosas, como buena salud."
- 55(ncg) "Porque Días ve la fe que se le tiene a el."
- 59(cg) "Fe en Dios."
- 60(cg) "Rezamos para ver si nuestra alma puede ser salvada."
- 62(cg) "Es el modo de comunicarse con Dios."
- ?(cq) "por darle gracias a Dios o para pedirle ayuda."
- b. ¿Cuales necesidades son las que trae en sus oraciones?
- 18-29(ncg) "Las mismas que dije en la pregunta anterior."
- 18-29(cg) "Pedir por la paz del mundo, peticiones personales y ayuda para que cada día sea mejor."
- 18-29(cg) "Cualquier aflicción que tenga."
- 18-29(ncg) "los problemas que tengo."
- 18-29(cg) "1. salud, paz, felicidad, harmonía, sabiduría, pan, paciencia."
- 22(cg) "La necesidad que hay en las jóvenes para superar las drogas. Las pandillas. Los niños huérfanos. Por mis abuelos (salud). Que me di fuerza para llevar a los jóvenes su mensaje."
- 23(cg) "Ayuda para mi familia y familiares, buena salud y paz."
- 23(ncg) "Salud de mente y cuerpo, prosperidad, wisdom, knowledge, inteligencia, good faith, good will and not to sin."
- 24(cg) "paciencia, que me ilumine el camino."
- 24 (ncg) "Que sea yo bueno; que este bien sin problemas. Por mi

- familia que Dios los ayude, que no les pose nada. Por su vida si están enfermos de muerte."
- 25(cg) "Mi familia, mis estudios, mi trabajo"
- 26(cg) "Salud, que cambie mi familia, que sean mejores, que se porten bien, que me salga bastante trabajo, que se retire la gente que me tiene envidia, que tenga mas dinero."
- 31(ncg) "Por salud."
- 32(cg) "Mi familia y vida"
- 32(cg) "Humildad, sencillez, conocimiento y sabiduría le pido a Dios para distinguir entre lo bueno y lo malo. Le pido por todos lo que andan en los vicios, las guerras, las vocaciones, los niños abortados. Por mi madre que Dios le de paciencia y que le de fuerza para soportar nuestra ausencia."
- 43(ncg) "Bienestar para mi familia."
- 43(ncg) "el descanso a los muertos y a mis padres para que mi familia no les falte de pan cada día y la salud diaria, que aparte de las malas compañías a mis hijos y les llene
- el corazón de su amor que mi tierra tenga paz."
- 45(cg) "Pido a Dios que le de salud a mi familia por la paz del mundo por los ancianos enfermos y por los que están en la cárcel."
- 30-50(ncg) "el trabajo, la comprensión, y por mas fe en el." 30-50(cg) "que nos cuide y traiga buenos sentimos a mi familia."
- 30-50(cg) "El vivir de le día a día, tener fuerzas para luchar ese día."
- 30-50(ncg) "Que me vaya bien."
- 50(cg) "Por los enfermos, por los que no tienen donde vivir y comer, por las madres solteras y por todas las familias del mundo."
- 50+(ncg) "Salud, trabajo."
- 50+(cg) "Principal para mantenernos como familia unida y pedir por las personas enfermas."
- 50+(cg) "Los problemas de la vida, la vida eterna, salud, espiritualidad."
- 50+(ncg) "Los problemas de la vida, lo que se sufre, el sufrimiento."
- 54(cg) "Buena salud para mi familia, ayuda financial."
- 54(ncg) "Salud y bienestar para mi familia. Paz para el mundo."
- 55(ncg) "Me alivie, que me ayude a resolver mis problemas, por mi hijo mas pequeño, salud, dinero y trabajo (para pagar mis deudas)."
- 59(cg) "Pedir por mis hijos y hermanos."
- 60(cg) "por penas"
- 62(cg) "problemas familiares y de mi salud"
- ?(cg) "la de la salud, la de recibir la gracia para pasar las penas en nombre de Dios, y por la gracia de que Dios ayude a todo su familia y que se aseguren mas en Dios."
- c. ¿Hay algunos santos a quienes se les piden necesidades

especiales?

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18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29(cg) "No se."
18-29 (ncg) "No se."
18-29(cg) "Si, pero yo no rezo a los santos."
22(cq) "No tengo conocimiento bien de eso. Si he odio pero no
me acuerdo. San Antonio de cabeza - para agarrar novio."
23(cg) "No se."
23 (ncg) "No"
24(cg) "no - no creo en Santos."
24(ncg) "He odio que al Señor San José para que te ayude
cuando estas enfermo."
25(cq) "No lo se"
26(cg) "San Cipriano - ayuda cuando hay problemas (ejemplo:
tememos tos); cuando una persona se va a aliviar que salga
bien de su parto. Patrón Santiago - toda la gente dice que es
vivo (que sale en las noches a ayudar a la gente.)"
31(ncg) "No se"
32(cg) "si"
32(cg) "A San Antonio le piden por los hijos que están
ausentes o enfermos. A San Martín por trabajo o un accidente.
A San Francisco de Asís (que dicen que es el Segundo Cristo)
le piden humildad del mundo y hacernos entender al llamado de
Cristo."
43(ncg) "No se, yo no le rezo a Santos."
43(ncg) "Al Espíritu Santo y al Corazón de Jesús lo mismo que
pido en mis oraciones, o algún necesidad."
45(cg) "si"
30-50 (ncg) "No"
30-50(cg) "San Martín de Porres."
30-50(cg) "1) Sagrado Corazón - Por todos los nuestros, que
cuide y fortaleza. 2) San Francisco - Por lo lindo de su
oración, por sabiduría. 3) Asisto de los Consejos en
Michoacan, San Juan - Por que proteja a la gente de Michoacan.
30-50 (ncg) "No."
50(cg) "Si, a la Virgen de Guadalupe"
50+(ncg) "Si hay. San Antonio de Padua para el matrimonio.
San Judas Tadeo como muy milagroso. San Ignacio Loyola, para
que quite a la gente mala."
50+(cg) "Si los hay pero ya no."
50+(cg) "No."
50+(ncg) "No"
       "Yo solo pido a Dios y a la Virgen."
54 (cg)
54(ncg) "No acostumbro rezarle a Santos."
55(ncg) "No"
59(cg) "Si, la Virgen de Guadalupe, Cristo Jesús, Niño Jesús,
Sagrado Corazón."
60(cg) "en general"
62(cg) "No"
?(cg) "a San José una buena muerte"
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d. ¿Hay acciones o promesas que siente que tiene que hacer como parte de sus oraciones?

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18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29 (cq) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29(ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "No. Pero dones en cuando hago promesas."
22(cg) "No. Solamente hacer el propósito de no volver a
hacer."
23(cg) "No siempre, solo cuando pido algo muy grande, tal vez
prometa hacer algo en cambio."
23 (ncg) "No"
24(cg) "no - no siempre."
24 (ncg) "No. Una manda si acaso a la villa si se alivia alguna
de mis hermanas."
25 (cg) "No"
26(cg) "Escucha cuando uno le esta hablando (Zaguayo, Mich.)
-A la Güerita de los Remedios - cuando nos aliviamos de bebe,
le rezamos a rosarios cada lunes. (Tetolán, Mich.)
-San Ignacio de Loyola - como San Cipriano (hacen muchos
milagros) - que retire el demonio, que retire a los malos
vecinos se pone su estampita cerca de la puerta.
-San Judas Tadeo - cuando una vecina te esta molestando se le
pide fuera de tu casa (no en tu casa porque si le pidesen tu
casa se amiga mas es la vecina) para que la retire que calle
a las personas que le tienen envidia a uno, que le ayude a
encontrar trabajo a tener mas dinero.
-A la Virgen de los Lagos - se le pide igual que a los santos:
que nos cuide, que retire a los malos vecinos.
-Santo Cristo Milagroso - se le piden milagros y cuando pasan
se le junta limosna, o se viste no de "quarecita" (indita" y
se va visitando. (Cerca de Uruapan, Mich.)"
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Todo lo que yo digo en mis oraciones tiene que ir
encarnada en mi propia vida. Dejar muchas cosas atrás por la
gracia de Dios. El esta ahí para recibirnos. Promesas no
porque solo tenemos el 'hoy' no la 'mañana.'"
43 (ncg) "Yo nunca las he hecho, pero de niño mi mamá me decía
que uno podía hacer una Manda cuando le pedía algo a Dios para
dar Gracias."
43 (ncg) "Si ayunar los Sábados como parte de mi promesa por lo
que le pido."
45(cg) "si"
30-50 (ncg) "No"
         "No"
30-50(cg)
30-50(cg) "Si, la veladora, ramo de flores y dar dinero."
30-50 (ncq) "No"
50(cg) "si"
50+(ncg) "No"
50+(cg) "No mas. Mejor cada día personalmente."
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- "Promesas de cambiar lo 50+(ca) malo por 10 bueno diariamente." 50+(ncg) "Si, a veces hago mandas, le ofrezco algo a Dios." "Si alquien de mi familia esta enferma a veces hago 54 (cg)
- una manda." 54(ncg) "Hago mandas cuando es algo especial que pido."
- 55 (ncg) "no"
- 59(cg) "Si"
- 60(cg) "si, hay veces"
- 62(cg) "Si, cuando rezo y le pido algo a Dios, los santos o la Virgen, les prometo rezarles rosarios o otras oraciones si me cumplen el milagro."
- ?(cq) "En veces mando decir una manda cuando siento que necesito algo en especial."
- e. ¿Siente que dando o prometiendo cosas a Dios o a la Virgen es una parte importante de sus oraciones? Porque es importante?
- 18-29 (ncg) "No"
- 18-29(cq) "Si. Es importante por que prometiendo ciertas cosas me motiva para llegar a realizarlos."
- 18-29(cg) "No"
- 18-29(ncg) "No"
 18-29(cg) "No necesariamente."
- 22(cg) "Si es una promesa firme que la pueda cumplir uno, entonces si. Para que sea ejemplo para otros que quieren lograr o hacer lo mismo para que vean que otros lo están haciendo y si se puede hacer."
- 23(cg) "Si, porque así Dios o la Virgen pueden ver que estamos dispuestos a dar algo por lo que estamos pidiendo, o por lo que estamos dando gracias."
- 23 (ncg) "No"
- 24(cg) "Si, es importante, pero no siempre porque cuando le pedimos algo a Dios, le debemos dar algo para atrás." 24 (ncg) "no"
- 25(cq) "Si pues cuando rezo siempre les ofrezco mis acciones porque me ayudan a ser mejor."
- 26(cg) "Si. Porque para que le pueden hacer un milagro, se le de se de prometer algo y así si pasa el milagro. Pero se le debe de prometer con fe. Si Dios vea en esa necesidad (sangrando de rodillas), el me va a hacer mas pronto el milagro."
- 31(ncg) "No"
- 32(cg) "Por que es una manera de practicar nuestra fe."
- 32(cg) "No. Antes hacia mandas al Santo Niño de Atocha en Fresnillo (a visitarlo) pero ahora sé que solamente hay el "hoy" y no debemos hacer promesas."
- 43(ncg) "No se porque nunca lo he hecho."
- 43(ncg) "Si, porque una manera de corresponderle por lo que nos das."
- 45(cq) "si"

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30-50 (ncg) "No"
30-50 (cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "Si, porque me siento que cumplo una obligación que
tengo - si ellos dan tanto por nosotros, porque no a ellos."
30-50 (ncg) "No"
50(cg) "si"
50+(ncg) "No"
50+(cg) "No, para mi no es importante."
50+(cg) "Si porque el Señor reconociera y tomara en cuenta mis
sacrificios que para mi persona son difíciles."
50+(ncg) "Si, porque se alivia uno al ofrecer algo. Se allana
la vida, o deshago la persona cumpliendo."
54(cg) "Si, uno debe de devolver un poquito de lo mucho que
ellos nos dan a nosotros."
54(ncg) "Si, cada persona debe de darle algo a Dios o la
Virgen, por todo lo que ellos nos dan a nosotros."
55(ncg) "Si, siento, pero no lo hago porque tengo miedo no
cumplirlas."
59(cg) "Si. Cuando pido una algo haciendo una promesa siento
que se me cumple."
60(cg) "porque conceden lo que se les pide."
62(cg) "Si, pienso que como Católica debo de hacer eso."
?(cg) "Siento que prometiendo algo es importante porque creo
que todos cuando hacemos un favor nos gusta que muestren su
agradecimiento."
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5. Experiencias Espirituales (II)

a. ¿Piensa que la gente cree que hay espíritus, espantos o apariciones fuera de Dios y los santos?

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18-29 (ncg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(ncg) "No se."
18-29(cg) "Si."
22(cg) "Si, hay gente que cree en eso."
23(cg) "Si, mucha gente cree en esos espíritus."
23(ncg) "Si"
24(cg) "Si"
24(ncg) "Si"
25(cg) "Si mucha gente piensa que hay espíritus y espantos."
26(cg) "Si"
31(ncg) "Si"
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Si, pero no pueden distinguir entre lo bueno y lo
malo."
43(ncg) "Yo creo que si. Yo si creo."
43(ncg) "Si"
45(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
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30-50(cq) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si la gente si cree."
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "No"
54(cg) "Si"
54(ncg) "Claro que si."
55(ncg) "Si"
59(cg) "Si"
60(cq) "Si"
62(cg) "Si"
?(cg) "Si"
b. ¿Piensa que la gente cree que estos espíritus tocan sus
vidas?
18-29(ncg) "Algunas Si"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(ncg) "No se."
18-29(cg) "Si."
22(cg) "Depende de la persona; si la persona adora a esos
espíritus, creen que son reales aunque sean puramente psíquicos."
23(cg) "Si, muchas veces esos espíritus abren las puertas para
que la gente se acerque a Dios."
23(ncg) "Si"
24(cg) "Si"
24 (ncg) "No"
25(cg) "Algunas de las gentes si lo creen así."
26(cg) "Si"
31(ncg) "Si"
32(cg) "Unas si, otras no."
32(cg) "Si. Creen en un brujo."
43(ncg) "Tal vez en un modo si, pero mucha gente no sabe si
son buenos o malos."
43(ncg) "Si"
45(cg) "No."
30-50(ncg) "Alguna gente si cree."
30-50(cg) "mucha gente si piensa."
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si."
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "No"
54(cg) "Si"
54 (ncq) "Si"
55(ncg) "Si. Lloran y se asustan mucho."
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59(cg) "A veces si."
60(cg) "Si"
62(cg) "Si."
?(cg) "Algunas personas."
c. ¿Ha oído alguna vez de alquien de su familia o amigos que
hayan experimentado algunos de estos espíritus?
18-29 (ncg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "No, he oido que comentan de estos espiritus, pero
podría contar ninguna historia en especial - creo que cuando
me las han contado no he puesto mucha atención."
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No."
22(cg) "Si"
23 (cg)
       "Si, mi abuela, mis tíos abuelos, mi hermana y mi
papá."
23(ncg) "Si"
24(cg) "Si"
24(ncg) "Si"
25(cg) "Si, pasó en mi propia familia pero yo no se si creer."
26(cg) "Si. Ahí en mi tierra abundaba mucho el demonio antes.
Si se peleaba una pareja, se oían pasar caballos, arrastos,
cadenas y hasta que se quebraban. Cuando rezan el Alabado, en
la noche aullaba el demonio."
31(ncg) "Si"
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Si. Mi abuelito. El leía el brujode (a magia negra y
vio a Satanás vestido de charro y en (1) carruaje. Cuando le
vio escapulano puesto, el charro se desapareció."
43(ncg) "Si"
43(ncg) "Si - mi madre era espirituista - (medium)"
45(cg) "no"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50 (cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "Si, mi mamá siempre decía que la asistían y también
a mi hermana, y donde lo asustaron, allí encontramos dinero
dos años después. Un señor sin cabeza la asusto. También la
asustaron otra vez y le dio una tiebre - Tifoidea. Pero el
dinero que se encuentran hace daño y usualmente se muere una
persona."
30-50 (ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Si. Una amiga tuvo una experiencia de que se le
metió un demonio."
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Si, cuando joven unos señores me platicaban de
cosas."
54(cg) "Si"
54 (ncg) "Si"
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55(ncg) "Mi mamá decía que había duendes(?) que se metían de las cobijas y cuando llovía se metía abajo de las camas." 59(cg) "Yo he estado enferma y me curado espiritualmente con un espirituista que era muy católico y me curo si tocarme ni viéndolo. Mi papa también se curo de estar enfermo con el curandero." 60(cg) "Si" 62(cg) "Si, cuando tenía diez años una tía contaba que se le aprecia un Señor que se había muerto cuando ella pasaba lo calle donde el señor había vivido." ?(cg) "No" d. ¿Cree Ud. en esos espíritus? 18-29(ncg) "No se. A veces ni que pensar, he tenido experiencias pero aun dudo en si será verdad lo que he visto o tiene alguna otra explicación." 18-29(cg) "Si" 18-29(cg) "No" 18-29(ncg) "No" 18-29(cg) "Si." 22(cg) "Si, creo en brujas." 23(cg) "Si, yo creo en estos espíritus."
23(ncg) "Si" 24(cg) "Si" 24(ncg) "No" 25(cg) "No, yo no creo." 26(cg) "Si." 31(ncg) "No" 32(cg) "Si" 32(cg) "Si, creo que existen espíritus malos." 43(ncg) "Si" 43(ncg) "Si" 45(cg) "No" 30-50(ncg) "Si" 30-50(cg) "No" 30-50(cg) "No" 30-50(ncg) "Si" 50(cg) "No" "Creo 50+(ncg) en Dios, pero si existen estos malos espíritus." 50+(cg) "No" 50+(cg) "Si" 50+(ncg) "No" 54(cg) "Si" 54 (ncg) "Si" 55(ncg) "No" 59(cg) "Si" 60(cg) "Si" 62(cg) "Si" ?(cg) "No"

153 e. ¿Ha tenido algunas de estas experiencias? 18-29 (ncg) "Si" 18-29(cg) "Si" 18-29 (cg) "No" 18-29 (ncg) "no" 18-29 (cg) "No." 22(cg) "Si" 23(cg) "Si, varias veces he tenido estas experiencias." 23 (ncg) "No" 24(cg) "No, todavía no." 24 (ncg) "No" 25(cg) "Nunca" 26(cg) "Si" 31(ncg) "No" 32(cg) "No" 32(cg) "No. Vi a alguien que me hablaba y me decía ven pero yo sabia que no era cosa mala. Si Dios está con uno, cosas malas no se le aparece." 43(ncg) "Si" 43 (ncg) "no, solamente en sueños." 45 (cg) "No" 30-50 (ncg) "No" 30-50(cg) "No" 30-50(cg) "Cuando tenía siete años, miré a mi abuela que estaba muerte. También miré a una pelota que entro sola a una cueva -apareció de ningún lado, y se metió sola. Yo estaba sola, nadie mas que yo." 30-50(ncg) "Si" 50(cg) "No" 50+(ncg) "Personalmente, no." 50+(cg) "No" 50+(cg) "Si" 50+(ncg) "Si, una persona me dio una oración cada 9 días para leer cada 9 días. Yo no lo hice y trate de desasirme de ella, la quemaba y tiraba a la basura y seguía apareciendo en mi bolsa hasta que la pusiera en un hoyo de agua, y la puse ahí, y ya nunca la volví a ver." 54(cg) "Si" 54(ncg) "Si" 55(ncg) "No" 59(cg) arriba, letra C 60(cg) "Si"

f. ¿Cómo fue?

?(cg) "No"

18-29(ncg) "En un campamento cristiano se hizo una liberación

62(cg) "Si, una Señora que se había muerto se me apareció en un sueño diciendome que rezara ciertas oraciones por ella. Yo

lo hice, y nunca la volví a soñar otra vez."

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y la otras estábamos en una reunión y un amigo empezó a
ofendernos y a querernos golpear, y su voz estaba
totalmente distorsionada y decía que nos iba a cuánta y se
hacia llamar con otro nombre después recobro su estado normal
y nos dijo que no recordaba nada y también su cara cambio
muchisimo."
18-29(cq) "Por medio del sueño empecé a sentir alquien dentro
de mi, un temor y escalofrío totalmente desconocido ese
sentimiento y sentía que luchaba interiormente dentro de mi."
18-29(cg) n/a
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) n/a
22(cq) "Íbamos al baile a otro rancho en la camioneta y vimos
como una ave ó pájaro pero demasiado grande. Y cuando llegamos
al rancho nos encontramos con un niño muerto. Ese pájaro
nosotros creemos que ese pájaro era la bruja y había matado al
niño."
23(cg) "Varias veces he sentido la presencia de Dios junto a
mi hablándole a mi corazón. Otras veces he sentido que alquien
me despierta cuando yo duermo."
23 (ncg) n/a
              (=que dijo arriba que no ha tenido esa
experiencia.)
24(cg) n/a
24(ncg) n/a
25(cg) n/a
26(cq) "Cuando se mete la gente mucho conmigo yo pienso que es
por el (por el demonio)."
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) n/a
32(cg) Su respuesta esta arriba en la letra "e".
43(ncg) "una vez cuando yo estuve leyendo la Biblia a una
noche esta dormido y algo me despertar, al pie de mi cama se
veía una sombra que alumbraba por detrás como la sombra de
Cristo con los brazos extendidos, pero no tenía cara."
43(ncg) "Sueño que personas muertas me dicen algo y se viene
a hacer realidad. Sueño a mi Madre mucho, y me previene lo que
le va a pasar a mis hijos."
45(cg) n/a
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) n/a
30-50(cg) "Me sentí muy mal, mi asuste y mi dio calentura. Me
curaron, me sobo y me puso unas hierbas en el cuerpo."
30-50(ncg) "Cuando estaba chica, vivía en una casa espantaba
y me espantaron una vez - oí quedos. Un padre fue y bendicio
la casa y se acabaron los espantos."
50(cg) n/a
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) n/a
50+(cg) "Con la visa (?)."
50+(ncg) Su respuesta esta arriba en la letra "e".
54(cg) "Muchas veces he sentido presencias de personas que ya
están muertos."
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una vez muchos niños fueron al cementerio en la noche. (Decían que allí espantaban) yo mire almas o ángeles saliendo hacia el cielo como llamaradas pero solo yo las vi." 55(ncg) n/a59(cg) Respuesta arriba, letra C. 60(cg) "apareció en sueños." 62(cg) Su respuesta esta arriba, letra E. ?(cg) n/ag. ¿Que hace la gente cuando tiene este tipo de experiencias? 18-29(ncg) "Se depende la persona en esos momentos yo pedía a Dios que lo ayudara a mi amigo y pedía también que nos cuidara a nosotros y otras personas que estaban ahí salieron corriendo." 18-29(cg) "Algunas personas oramos y le pedimos a Dios nos ayude." 18-29(cg) "No se." 18-29(ncg) "No se." 18-29(cg) "Gente que no tiene fe en Dios, va a algún curandero a que le haga una limpia, para quitarle estas espíritus." 22(cg) "Al momento se asusta uno, llega el temor. Dicen 'Ave María Purisima' y se santigüan." 23(cg) "Muchas veces se asusta y piensa que es malo, no para pensar que puede ser Dios quien nos esta llamando." 23(ncg) "No se." 24(cg) "se asusta, por que le tiene miedo a la experiencia" 24(ncg) "Gritan y salen corriendo a la casa. Se asustan, se persinan." 25(cg) "No lo se" 26(cg) "Se asustan, se santigüan, rezan." 31(ncg) "Rezan para que se vayan estas apariciones." 32(cg) "Placticarlas." 32(cg) "Da escalofrío; algunos se desmayan, se persinan y algunos se conviertan a Dios. (Ha servido a mucha gente para su conversión). Alqunos mueren de un ataque cardíaco." 43(ncg) "Les da miedo, porque no saben si es algo de Dios o del Diablo." 43(ncg) "tomo precaución por lo que esta pasando." 45(cg) "No se." 30-50(ncg) "Se pone a rezar la con personas que creen que hacen esos espíritus desaparecen." 30-50(cg) "No se." 30-50(cg) "Unos exageran demasiado y si alguien contradice lo que dicen normalmente discuten." 30-50(ncg) "Asustarse y rezar." 50(cg) "No lo se." 50+(ncg) "Van con gente que cura de malos espíritus." 50+(cg) n/a50+(cg) "Se asustan." 50+(ncg) "No se."

54 (ncg) "Cuando yo era niño, mucha gente hablaba de espantos,

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54(cg) "Mucha gente tiene miedo."
54 (ncg) "Les da miedo."
55(ncg) "No se."
59(cg) "Se encomienda a Dios y pide uno que lo libre de los
malos espíritus."
60(cg) "Rezar."
62(cq) "Si tiene apariciones de alguien que se haga muerto,
reza por sus almas."
?(cg) "No se."
6. Siendo Católico
a. ¿Me podría explicar porque es católico?
18-29(ncg) n/a
18-29(cg) "Porque fue la religión que mi impusieron mis
padres,
        antes era de palabra ahora me
                                              qusta
practicante."
18-29(cq) "Originalmente porque mis padres me bautizaron
Católica, ahora porque creo en Dios y pienso que esta fue la
Iglesia que el estableció por Pedro."
18-29(ncg) "Porque mis padres lo eran y ellos también me
hicieron a mi."
18-29(cg) "Porque así fui bautizado. Porque crecí en la
religión católica. Porque yo creo en Dios Padre, Hijo, y
Espíritu Santo.
Porque creo en las creencias de la Iglesia Católica."
22(cg) "Al principio era por tradición y después de la
experiencia del retiro fue por conversión. Intento ayudar a
las personas que están comenzando."
23(cg) "Yo nací católica, por mi familia, ésta es la religión
de mi familia."
23(ncg) "Tradición."
24(cg) "Nací, me bautizaron y voy a morir católico."
24(ncg) "Así nací . . . católico."
25(cg) "Porque fue la religión que me infundieron mis padres."
26(cg) "Porque queremos mucho la Virgen (y los "hermanos" no).
Porque creemos en todos los santos, la Virgen y Dios Nuestro
Señor."
31(ncg) "Porque mis padres que me inculcaron esta religión."
32(cg) "Porque fui bautizado y es la fe que me enseño mi
familia."
32(cg) "Católico es universal y creo en la Santa Iglesia
católica que dejó Jesucristo y él fue el fundador de la única
iglesia. Y sé que soy cristiana porque creo en Jesucristo."
43(ncg) "Me considero católico porque esa era la religión de
mis padres. Y fui bautizado en la Iglesia católica."
43(ncg) "Porque siento que siempre lo he sido."
45(cg) "Porque desde niña me enseñaron esta doctrina y
creencia."
30-50(ncg) "porque en esa fe nací."
30-50(cg) "Porque mis padres eran católicos."
30-50(cg) "Desde mi familia, herencia, nací Católica. Era
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la única religión en mi pueblo."
30-50(ncg) "Porque mis padres me bautizaron Católica.
50(cg) "Porque mis padres son católicos y porque nuestras
religión es la principal que formo Dios."
50+(ncg) "Por tradición. Por la fe en Dios."
50+(cg) "Primero por fe bautizada y creado en un hogar
católico y ahora por convicción."
50+(cg) "Soy católico por tradición en mi familia y porque fui
bautizado en esta fe. Y hoy porque creo y estar convencido de
que esta es la Iglesia del Señor."
50+(ncg) "Porque mis padres me enseñaron desde chico."
54(cg) "Toda mi familia es católica, yo nací católica y
fui bautizada católica."
54(ncg) "Mis padres me bautizaron como católico."
55(ncg) "Me inculcaron esa fe."
59(cg) "Desde chica, porque mis padres eran católicos."
60(cg) "De nacimiento."
62(cq) "Porque mis padres eran católicos y ellos desde niña
me bautizaron católicas. También fui a escuela religiosa
cuando chica."
?(cg) "Porque mis padres me crearon en esta religión."
b. ¿Conoce a alquien que haya decidido ya no ser católico?
¿Y que se haya cambiado de religión?
18-29(ncg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(ncg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "No"
22(cg) "No"
23(cg) "Si, conozco a varias personas."
23 (ncg) "No"
24 (cg) "No"
24(ncg) "Si."
25(cg) "Si, mi mejor amiga lo hizo."
26(cg) "Si."
31(ncg) "Si."
32(cg) "si"
32(cg) "Si. De Católicos a testigos de Jehová."
43(ncg) "Si"
43 (ncg) "Si - mucha gente."
45(cg) "Si, mi hija."
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si, mi hija y hermana."
30-50(ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "Si."
50+(ncg) "Si, una amiga se cambio a adventista."
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Si."
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54(cg) "Si, no se por que se cambiaron."
54(ncg) "No"
55(ncg) "No."
59(cg) "Si, se cambiaron a otra religión."
60(cg) "Si."
62(cg) "Si."
?(cg) "Si."
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c. ¿Porque cree que hicieron esa decisión?

18-29(ncg) "Bueno, porque hay gente que son de otras religiones y andan predicando el evangelio y a veces los engañan y los envuelven haciéndoles cambiar la forma que tenían de pensar, o porque simplemente les convence la forma de pensar de esas religiones."

18-29(cg) "Por que no practicaban la religión y les hacia falta esa alimentación espiritual."

18-29(cg) "Porque no tenían fe, uno porque decidió que la ciencia prueba que no hay un Dios, que Dios es una falacia. También otros porque sus opiniones no van con las de la Iglesia Católica, como estar a contra de el aborto o no dejar que las familias usen una forma de planificación familiar mas avanzada y confiable que el que el modo natural. Piensan que la Iglesia está un poco primitiva en sus modos de pensar."
18-29(ncg) "Porque no creían lo que la religión Católica cree o enseña y porque otras religiones les ofrecían algo mas."

18-29 (cg) n/a

22(cg) n/a

23(cg) "La verdad no se, pero tal vez porque nunca estuvieron a gusto cuando eran católicos."

23(ncq) n/a

24(cg) n/a

24(ncg) "Por conveniencia - Dicen que viven más bien. No respetan la nueva religión, siguen bailando ó tomando aunque esté prohibido."

25(cg) "pues ella no podía decidir pues su mamá la obligo."

26(cg) "Porque les platican más acerca de Dios. (y se van con ellos). Piensan que no va a perder el tiempo con la Misa y con los padres (pues siempre hablan de la biblia y no la puede consultar sola).

31(ncg) "Porque en la nueva religión ahí se alivió. (físicamente de una enfermedad)."

32(cq) "No lo se."

32(cg) "Por falta de entrega de nosotros los que estamos en la Iglesia de dar testimonio de que Jesús realmente existe; a mucha gente le da vergüenza."

43(ncg) "No se, tal vez buscaban algo diferente en sus vidas que no encontraban en la iglesia católica."

43(ncg) "Porque la iglesia Católica solamente habla de la Biblia un poco - cuando las evangélicas usan las palabras de Dios (Biblias) mas."

45(cg) "su propio cretino

- 30-50(ncg) "Porque en realidad no saben que es su religión." 30-50(cg) "Porque no encuentran a Dios en la fe Católica."
- 30-50(cg) "Mi hijo porque empezó a juntar con una familia que era de otra religión y ellos lo convirtieron. Mi hermana porque mi abuela era muy Católica, pero muy soberbia y 'strict,' y no quería ser como ella. Mi abuela la influencio mal (Testigos Jehová)."
- 30-50(ncg) "Porque leyeron la biblia y se dieron cuenta de muchas cosas que ellos no sabían y piensen que la religión Católica no esta con lo de la biblia."
- 50(cg) "no lo se tal vez porque crearon que era el camino verdadero."
- 50+(ncg) "Porque tenían la fe muy débil."
- 50+(cg) "Una persona por falta de conocimiento de su fe católica y información."
- 50+(cg) "No conocían su religión y se sintieron perdonados en la otra."
- 50+(ncg) "Porque rechazaron una cosa para agarrar la otra, como quebrando una ley."
- 54 (cq) "In verdad no se."
- 54(ncq) n/a
- 55(ncg) n/a
- 59(cg) "No se."
- 60(cg) "Por conveniencia."
- 62(cg) "por su conveniencia."
- ?(cq) "pues tal ves porque cuando tenían tiempo malos, no hubo quien hablara con ellos y les diera un buen consejo, o les ayudara y encontraron eso en otra religión."
- B. Prácticas de Devoción
- 1. Descripción del Recibimiento de los Sacramentos.
- a. ¿Cuáles son las razones por las cuales se bautiza a un niño?
- 18-29(ncg) "Pienso que muchos ya lo hacen por costumbre, pero también es para quitarnos las cadenas."
- 18-29(cg) "Porque al bautizarnos somos libres de pecado y por que así fue la misión de Cristo por que nos libera de nuestros pecados."
- 18-29(cq) "Para introducirlo a la Iglesia y borrarle el pecado original. Empezar el proceso de hacerlos Cristianos."
- 18-29(ncg) "Para hacerlo católico."
 18-29(cg) "Para presentarlo a Dios. Para que reciba la bendición de Dios."
- 22(cg) "Para que reciba el espíritu Santo."
- 23(cg) "Para que reciba la bendición de nuestro Señor, y sea recibido en la Iglesia Católica."
- 23 (ncg) "Padrino en causa que se mueran sus padres.
- Para que reconozca a Dios. Para que los santos lo vigilen mientras nos sabe rezar la criatura."
- 24(cg) "Para darle una identidad. Quitarle el pecado

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original."
24(ncg) "Para ponerle su nombre, y para que no sea
hijo del diablo."
25(cg) "Para entrar a la iglesia católica."
26(cg) "Para hacerlo católico. Para cortarle la colita del
diablo."
31(ncg) "No se."
32(cg) "Para hacerlo miembro de la Iglesia de Dios."
32(cg) "Entrar en mutuo amor de Dios, llegar a ser hijos
legítimos de Dios Padre."
43(ncg) "Porque es nuestra fe, y así lo manda la iglesia."
43(ncg) "Para darle la luz, y hacerlo hijo de Dios."
45(cg) "Para nacer de nuevo si(n) pecado."
30-50(ncg) "Para quedar libre de todos pecados." 30-50(cg) "Para que siga el Catolicismo."
30-50(cg) "Porque recibe al espíritu santo y para convertirlo
Cristiano y Católica."
30-50(ncg) "Porque es requerido por la iglesia."
50(cg) "Porque el bautismo borra el pecado original y
personal y también es el renacimiento a la gracia."
50+(ncg) "Para que este en la presencia de Dios."
50+(cg) "Para recibir el Espíritu Santo."
50+(cg) "Para darle la fe católica y quitarle el pecado
original."
50+(ncg) "Porque en la biblia Jesucristo fue bautizado y para
sequir su ejemplo."
54(cg) "Lo manda la iglesia, para que tenga la bendición de
Dios, y por si se enferma y muera su alma no quede en
limbo.
54(ncg) "Para que sea perdonado por el pecado original para
que sea recibido en la iglesia como cristiano y para que tenga
la bendición de Dios."
55(ncg) "Por la fe a Dios."
59(cg) "Para hacerlo cristiano."
60(cg) "para ser cristiano."
62(cg) "1) para que se hagan miembros de la iglesia. 2) porque
traemos el pecado original y para que se borre."
?(cg) "para darle la fe Católica y para que tenga la gracia
de ir a cielo."
b. ¿Cuáles son las razones por las que se hace la primera
comunión?
18-29(ncg) "Porque es el sacramento de la fe." 18-29(cg) "Es para darnos cuenta el valor que tiene la
eucaristia es el sacramento de nuestra fe."
18-29(cg) "Es otra etapa de la vida Cristiana - significa que
el niño o niña sabe ciertos conceptos de Dios y la Iglesia y
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comprende lo suficiente para poder empezar a recibir la

18-29(cg) "Como un principio de vivir una vida espiritual mas

18-29(ncg) "Para recibir la hostia."

hostia."

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profunda con Dios."
22(cg) "para recibir a Cristo."
23(cq) "Para recibir el cuerpo y la sangre de nuestro Señor
por primera vez."
23 (ncg)
         "Para aprender las tradiciones de la religión
católica."
24(cg) "Para recibir a Dios en cuerpo y sangre."
24(ncg) "Es la primera vez que se confiesa."
25(cg) "Para recibir el cuerpo y la sangre de Cristo y
sentirlo mas cerca."
26(cq) "Aprende uno el caminito por donde va uno caminando
(para alumbrar el caminito de la vida por donde va uno.)
31(ncg) "no se."
32(cg) "Para recibir el Cuerpo y la sangre de Cristo."
32(cq) "Para redimir los pecados que uno lleva. Para entrar
más en la confianza con Dios."
43(ncg) "Para recibir el cuerpo y la Sangre de Dios. también
porque lo manda la iglesia."
43(ncg) "Para preparase para recibir la Eucaristia."
45(cq) "Para recibir el cuerpo de Cristo."
30-50(ncg) "Para poder recibir la comunión en cual se recibe
al Señor."
30-50(cg) "Para seguir a Jesús."
30-50(cg) "Para que uno mas se llega Dios - mas comprender a
Dios mas la religión."
30-50(ncg) "Porque es requerido por la iglesia y para que los
niños conozcan a Dios."
50(cg) n/a
50+(ncg) "Para recibir a Jesús sacramentado."
50+(cg) "Para por impremintar el cuerpo de Jesús."
50+(cg) "Para recibir a nuestro Señor en la Eucaristía."
50+(ncg) "No lo he podido entender."
54(cg) "Para recibir a Jesús."
54(ncg) "Para recibir el cuerpo y la sangre de Dios."
55(ncg) "es un sacramento que debe uno de recibir para
estar con Dios."
59(cg) "No se."
60(cg) "para recibir el sacramento de la comunión."
62(cg) "Porque es mandamiento de Dios, y para recibir el
cuerpo y sangre de Jesucristo y nos ayude en nuestra alma."
?(cg) "para recibir el cuerpo de Cristo."
c. ¿Cuáles son las razones de un adulto para recibir comunión?
18-29(ncg) "No se aun no lo he hecho."
18-29(cg) "No la he experimentado."
18-29(cg) "Para que los fortaleza espiritualmente, porque Dios
instituto este sacramento y para seguir su ejemplo."
18-29(ncg) "Para sentirse mas cerca a Dios."
18-29(cg) "Para recibir el cuerpo de Cristo, que es vida
eterna. Después de confesión, es como una recompensa de
recibir el cuerpo de Cristo."
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22(cq) "Depende de la persona. Algunos lo hacen por tradición. Otras, si tienen algún conocimiento para recibir a Cristo mismo y que le dé fuerzas en la fe." 23(cq) "Para recibir la bendición, la sangre y el cuerpo del Señor." 23(ncg) "después de haber confesado sus pecados & esta limpio." 24(cg) "para recibir a Dios." 24(ncg) "Para que me perdone mi padre Dios."
25(cg) "Para estar en paz con Dios y para participar plenamente en la liturgia." 26(cg) "Porque se sienten limpios de conciencia." 31(ncg) "No sé." 32(cg) "no estar en pecado mortal." 32(cg) "Que esté libre de pecados y que tenga conciencia de los pecados cometidos." 43(ncg) "Para recibir al Señor, y ser perdonados de nuestros pecados." 43(ncg) "Para sequir recibiendo la Eucaristia, compartir el cuerpoo de nuestro Señor." 45(cg) "Para tener la gracia de estos con Dios." 30-50(ncg) "Para recibir al Señor." 30-50(cg) "No se." 30-50(cg) "El adulto ya tiene mas problemas, y ya mas pecados para ir a confesarse y recibir la hostia." 30-50(ncq) "No se." 50 (cq) n/a 50+(ncg) "Para el perdón de los pecados." 50+(cg) "Para reconciliarnos con nuestro Padre Dios por todas nuestras ofensas." 50+(cg) "Para mantenerse en gracia y amistad con Dios." 50+(ncg) "No se." 54(cq) "Para recibir a Jesús." 54(ncg) "Para ser perdonado y recibir y tomar la sangre y el cuerpo del Señor." 55(ncg) "Para recibir a Dios." 59(cg) "Para estar bien con Dios." 60(cg) "no estar en pecado mortal." 62(cg) "Para estar mas cerca de Dios, y como ayuda para la alma de el adulto, para pecar menos." ?(cg) "para acercarse mas a Dios." d. ¿Cuáles son las razones por las cuales se va a misa cada domingo?" 18-29(ncg) "Para dedicarle por lo menos unos minutos al Señor y alabarle es como una forma de agradecimiento." 18-29(cg) "Porque me gusta, y así convivir mi comunidad y porque es la casa de Dios y así mismo orarle, alabarlo."

18-29(cg) "Porque la Iglesia le obliga, porque es un tiempo

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18-29 (ncg) "Para oír la palabra de Dios."

para reflejar y estar con Dios."

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18-29(cg) "Para renovar la fe y comunión con Dios. Para oír el
mensaje de Dios, para convivir con nuestra iglesia."
22(cg) "A escuchar la palabra de Dios."
23(cq) "Para ir a la casa del Señor, para estar mas cerca de
el."
23(ncg) "Para renovar la fe."
24(cg) "Para escuchar sus sagrados misterios."
24(ncg) "Yo no voy y cuando voy el porque siento que estoy muy lejos y tengo que ir a misa."
25(cg) "Para ir a agradecer a Dios por todas las cosas que
no da durante la semana."
26(cg) "Porque nuestros padres nos enseñan que se tiene que
ir a misa cada domingo."
31(ncg) "por estar bien con Dios." 32(cg) "por que es de obligación."
32(cg) "Es una obligación de cada cristiano ir a misa a dar
gracias por lo que nos da cada semana."
43(ncg) "Para enseñarle respeto al Señor."
43 (ncg) "Para oír la palabra de Dios."
45(cq) "Para cumplir con los mandamientos."
30-50(ncq) "Para dedicarle un poquito de tiempo al Señor y
recibirlo."
30-50(cg) "Para oír la Palabra de Dios." 30-50(cg) "Para reunirse los fieles de Dios. Para juntarse,
por obligación."
30-50(ncg) "Para platicar una hora con Dios."
50(cg) "Porque es uno de los mandamientos de la Santa Madre
Iglesia."
50+(ncg) "No voy. No se."
50+(cg) "Una de las razones para dar gracias a Dios, pedir
perdón y escuchar su evangelio."
50+(cg) "Para aprender de la Palabra de Dios y compartir la
Eucaristia."
50+(ncg) "Una visita a Dios, para darle nuestras quías, para
ir a confesarse con el."
54(cg) "Para estar en la casa del Señor, y para oír su
palabra."
54(ncg) "Lo manda la iglesia. Para visitar la casa de Dios
rezar y oír su palabra."
55(ncg) "Para hacer el sacrificio de la misma y sentirse a
qusto al ir a la casa de Dios."
59(cg) "Es obligación de ir cada domingo."
60(cg) "Día de Devoción."
62(cg) "Porque es un mandamiento de Dios."
?(cq) "Para dar a Dios gracias y para cumplir con los
mandamientos."
e. ¿Qué tan sequido debería de confesarse una persona?
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18-29(ncg) "Cada vez que lo sienta necesario."

18-29(cg) Cada vez que se ha tenido un pecado mayor."

18-29(cg) "Por lo menos cada año, pero debería confesarse mas

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seguido si es que siente que tiene pecados graves o mortales."
18-29(ncg) "No se."
18-29(cg) "Cada 2 o 3 meses depende en sus pecados."
22(cg) "Cada dos meses o cada mes, dependiendo de como se
sienta la persona o como se siente uno."
23(cg) "Yo pienso que eso depende de la persona. Hay mucha
gente que se siente a gusto al confesarse cada dos o tres
meses, otros cada semana."
23(ncg) "depende que tipo de vida vive."
24(cg) "una vez al mes."
24 (ncg) "Por lo menos una vez al año."
25(cg) "Cada vez que deciden reconciliarse con dios y
ellas mismas."
26(cg) "Una vez al año."
31(ncg) "Cada vez que sientan ganas."
32(cg) "Cada mes."
32(cg) "De perdido cada mes."
43(ncg) "No se, yo tengo muchos años que no me he confesado."
43(ncg) "según los pecados que cometa - como uno lo piense
necesario."
45(cg) "Cuando menos 2 veces al año."
30-50(ncg) "Para quedar libre de pecado y poder recibir al
Señor en las misas."
30-50(cg) "Cada mes."
30-50(cg) "Dependiendo en los pecados que tenga la gente. Si
tienen muchos, cada semana, etc. Como la gente lo necesite."
30-50(ncg) "Cada vez que sienta ganas o necesidad."
50(cg) "Por lo menos 2 veces al año."
50+(ncg) "No se."
50+(cg) "Cuando sienta la necesidad de una reconciliación."
50+(cg) "Cada vez que se sienta con pecado."
50+(ncg) "Siquiera cada año."
54(cq) "Cada semana."
54(ncg) "La verdad no se, yo no me confieso muy seguido."
55(ncg) "Mientras no tenga uno muchos pecados, por lo menos 1
vez al año."
59(cq) "Cada tres meses."
60(cg) "de menos cada 3 meses."
62(cg) "por lo menos una vez al año."
?(cg) "depende que tanto peque pero por lo menos cada dos
meses."
f. ¿Cuáles son las razones para estar casado por la Iglesia?
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- 18-29(ncg) "Simplemente por amar a Dios nuestro Señor y llevar acabo su palabra y sus mandatos, y bendiga mi unión con la pareja."
- 18-29(cg) "Para ponerse en la manos de Dios nos bendiga y nos lleve a la eternidad."
- 18-29(cg) "Porque la gracia de Dios debe de estar en algo tan serio como lo es el matrimonio - para que Dios esté en el hogar de la pareja y les ayude; porque es uno de los

sacramentos, y la Iglesia lo requiere. Claro también por cosas no tan esotericas, como las que la Iglesia y los sacerdotes miraran mal a la pareja porque están viviendo en pecado, y porque tradicionalmente la cultura hispana lo requiere por esas mismas razones. Mi madre me cuenta que en México un Padre (sacerdote) no va a la casa de algún Padre de familia si es que tienen a un hijo viviendo allí que no está casado por la Iglesia. No van ni aunque la persona esta muriendo y necesite confesión. Pienso que esto esta muy mal." 18-29(ncg) "Estar cerca de Dios." 18-29(cg) "Vivir fuera de pecado y en comunión con Dios." 22(cg) "Es como si la unión la hiciera Dios; como si la unión fuera de espíritu y no solamente en un papel." 23(cg) "La pareja debe de recibir la bendición de Dios." 23 (ncg) "No se." 24(cg) "Porque es el mandamiento de la Santa Iglesia y recibir la bendición de Dios para la pareja." 24(ncg) "Porque somos católicos." 25(cg) "Para vivir en un matrimonio cristiano y estar en la gracia de Dios." 26(cg) "para estar con Dios." 31(ncg) "no sé."
32(cg) "Para llevar una vida mejor en le camino de Dios." 32(cg) "Recibir el sacramento del matrimonio ante los ojos de Dios. Recibir la gracia de Dios." 43(ncg) "No se, nunca me he casado por la iglesia." 43(ncg) "Para tener la bendición de Dios." 45(cg) "Para que Dios nos de su bendición." 30-50(ncg) "Para obtener la bendición del Señor en nuestro hogar." 30-50(cg) "para no estar viviendo en pecado." 30-50(cg) "Porque es una ley de Dios." 30-50(ncg) "Para no pecar." 50(cg) "porque es la ley de Dios." 50+(ncg) "Para que estar bien con Dios." 50+(cg) "Para confirmar el amor que se tiene la pareja y tener bases firmes." 50+(cg) "Para ofreces su unión a Dios y que Dios bendiga su matrimonio." 50+(ncg) "Para ser un hogar feliz que esta bendito por la mano de Dios." 54(cg) "Toda pareja debe de tener la bendición de Dios." 54(ncg) "Para tener la bendición del Señor, para que el le ayude a la pareja a tener un matrimonio cristiano." 55(ncg) "Ahí está todo. un ofrecimiento a Dios." 59(cg) "Para vivir en gracia de Dios." 60(cg) "el sacramento del matrimonio." 62(cg) "Porque el matrimonio es un sacramento." ?(cg) "para estar casado como lo mando la iglesia, y para recibir la gracia de Dios."

- g. ¿A quién se escoge para que sean los padrinos de estos sacramentos?
- 18-29(ncg) "A personas serias de buenas costumbres y que sepa uno que puede responder en el momento que se necesite. Y ya halla experimentado algo igual que sepa de lo que se trata el hecho."
- 18-29(cg) "A cualquier persona."
- 18-29(cg) "Se deberían de escoger a gentes que son Católicos practicantes, cerca de la Iglesia y que fueran buen ejemplo, pero creo que la mayoría de gente escoge a amigos, aunque no quedan la descripción de arriba."
- 18-29(ncg) "Amigos."
- 18-29(cg) "Al mejor amigo o amiga."
- 22(cg) "A amigos ó familiares."
- 23(cg) "Personas responsables, personas que siguen fe, y personas a quien uno aprecia."
- 23(ncg) "A alguien que pertenezca a la misma religión & de confianza."
- 24(cg) "Gente responsable."
- 24(ncg) "familiares, parejas, amigos."
- 25(cg) "Familiares cercanos o amigos de la familia."
- 26(cg) "A unos que sean también católicos, buenas personas, amigos, familiares, vecinos; que se porten bien con los ahijados."
- 31(ncg) "amigos."
- 32(cg) "Personas que también estén casados por la Iglesia.
- 32(cg) "A gente que va a la iglesia para que si hay problemas por ejemplo en mi matrimonio, me ayuden. A mis familiares o amigos intimos."
- 43(ncg) "Personas responsables, quien sean buenos ejemplos. Y crean en su fe."
- 43(ncg) "a personas que puedan ser buenos ejemplos y buen comportamiento sobre la iglesia y de Dios."
- 45(cg) "a veces los padres o personas casadas por la iglesia." 30-50(ncg) "a familiares o amigos."
- 30-50(cg) "amigos o familiares."
- 30-50(cg) "A un matrimonio que sean muy entregados a Dios, que sean Católicos y que sepan lo que es ser Católico."
- 30-50(ncg) "A alguien que tu estimes."
- 50(cg) "A una pareja que estén casados por la iglesia."
- 50+(ncg) "No se, amigos o familia."
- 50+(cg) "A su mejor amigo, a sus padrinos, a alguien que le conozcan bien."
- 50+(cg) "A una persona que se estime y que le de consejos en el matrimonio."
- 50+(ncg) "No se."
- 54(cg) "A personas que uno aprecia, que sean responsables y crean en su fe."
- 54(ncg) "Personas responsables, maduras, y gente que siga las palabras del Señor."
- 55(ncg) "a alguien que es católico y responsable."

- 167 59(cq) "un pariente." 60(cg) "sean católicos." 62(cg) "A las personas que sean católicas, y que frecuenten o reciban también los sacramentos." ?(cg) "unas personas que sean católicas. Que sigan los mandamientos, y que amen a cristo." ¿Porque los escoge a ellos? 18-29(ncg) "Porque los conozco y me aseguro de que sean serios y sean testigos de mi unión." 18-29(cg) "Para sean testigos ante Dios de que se esta llevando acabo nuestra unión." 18-29(cg) "Por lo que dije arriba." 18-29(ncg) "Porque se les tiene confianza." 18-29(cg) "Porque así se acostumbra y porque son las personas que conocen a uno muy bien aparte de la familia." 22(cq) "Porque es el mejor amigo de la persona ó porque tiene dinero." 23(cg) "Porque uno quiere lo mejor para usar como ejemplo, alguien que pueda dar buenos consejos como padrinos de estos sacramentos." 23(ncg) "Porque creo que son los mejores para el trabajo que van a tener." 24(cq) "Porque son responsables, y traen a Dios en ellos. Creen Dios." 24 (ncg) "Son los que están más cerca de uno." 25(cg) n/a 26(cg) "Porque se preocupan ó ven bien a los ajihados." 31(ncg) "Para ser compadres y estar unidos." 32(cg) "Porque también son católicos." 32(cg) "Porque me puedan ayudar en mis problemas por ejemplo si mi matrimonio anda fracasando." 43(ncg) "Porque al escogerlos, pensamos que van a ser buenos ejemplos para nuestros hijos." 43(ncg) "por la mismas razón anteriores." 45(cg) "Por su ejemplo." 30-50(ncg) "por amistad." 30-50(cg) "por amistad." 30-50(cg) "Porque uno debe de escoger de los mismos siempre.
- (De la misma religión.)" 30-50(ncg) "Para que tomen parte en algo importante."
- 50(cq) n/a
- 50+(ncg) "Depende de la estimación que le tengan a uno."
- 50+(cg) "Por amistad y confianza."
- 50+(cg) "Para que vean por los ahijados."
- 50+(ncg) "No se."
- 54(cg) "Porque uno quiere que le den un buen ejemplo a sus hijos."
- 54(ncg) "Porque uno quiere un buen ejemplo para sus hijos."
- 55(ncg) "En caso de padres, padrinos" Es la responsabilidad de los padrinos cuando los padres falten."

- 59(cg) "Porque quiere uno a esas personas."
- 60(cg) "para poner el buen ejemplo."
- 62(cg) "Para que sean un buen ejemplo para sus hijos de uno." ?(cg) "para tener personas que den buen ejemplo."
- i. ¿Cuáles son las responsabilidades de los padrinos de cada uno de los sacramentos?

¿Bautismo?

- 18-29(ncg) "Responder por los hijos en un dado caso."
- 18-29(cg) "Responder por los hijos en caso de fallecimiento."
- 18-29(cg) "Servir como ejemplo, ser los Padres del niño en Dios, introducirlo a la Iglesia cuando crezca."
- 18-29(ncg) "No se."
- 18-29(cg) "De encargarse del niño o niña viva una vida con Dios, y que haga su primera comunión."
- 22(cg) "Como de un segundo padre. Inculcarle al ahijado los sacramentos de Dios y que lleve una vida cristiana."
- 23(cg) "ayudar a que los niños sigan su religión, y sean buenos cristianos."
- 23(ncg) "cuidar la criatura y ser segundo padre/madre."
- 24(cg) "Guiar al ahijado por el camino cristiano."
- 24 (ncg) "No sé."
- 25(cg) "Reemplazar a los padres en caso de quedar huérfano."
- 26(cg) "Preguntan por ellos, ser cómo los segundos padres.
- Ver si están bien, si no les falta algo. Enseñarle las oraciones."
- 31(ncg) "Son como unos segundos padres. Deben de cuidarlos como padres (a los ahijados)."
- 32(cg) "velar y guiar por el buen camino."
- 32(cg) "Encargar de la criatura si los padres mueran y darle una buena educación."
- 43 (ncg) "guiar al niño en una vida cristiana."
- 43(ncg) "Cuidar de que los padres guían bien a los hijos, darles bien ejemplos."
- 45(cg) "para cuando falten los padres le den al niño la doctrina cristiana."
- 30-50(ncg) "ver por la fe en Dios en el crecimiento del niño." 30-50(cg) n/a
- 30-50(cg) "Que sepan lo que es la religión, responsables para ayudar a la persona si tiene problemas, palabras de aliento. Que rezan por mi."
- 30-50(ncg) "Cuidar al niño como si fuera el Padre en caso que falte el Padre."
- 50(cg) "de ser como los segundos padres."
- 50+(ncg) "En falta de padres están los padrinos."
- 50+(cg) "Para velar por los niños, y para ayudar en el crecimiento espiritual al niño."
- 50+(cg) "Después de los padres son los padrinos para guiarlos por buen camino y fe."
- 50+(ncg) "Cuando los padres del niño mueran para que queden

como segundos padres."
54(cg) "guiar al ahijado en una vida cristiana."
54(ncg) "mirar que los niños crezcan en una vida cristiana."
55(ncg) "Llevar al ahijado por el buen camino."
59(cg) "Si los padres llegan a faltarles algún día."
60(cg) "darles el buen ejemplo."
62(cg) "ser segundos padres en caso de que falten los verdaderos papás."
?(cg) "poner buen ejemplo de católicos practicantes, enseñar la doctrina, ayudarles cuando tienen problemas con consejos."

¿Primera Comunión?

18-29(ncg) "No es necesario." 18-29(cg) "no es necesario." 18-29(cg) "Como ejemplo también, ayudar en el crecimiento espiritual. Apoyarlos a seguir comulgando, ir a misa, ayudar con problemas, etc." 18-29(ncg) "No se." "de que siga llendo a misa y siga comulgando el 18-29 (cq) niño o niña." 22(cg) "De que esté firme en la fe, que vaya a confesarse constantemente y que no se aleje demasiado." 23(cg) "darles el ejemplo, de recibir el cuerpo y la sangre de Dios y ser uno con nuestro Señor." 23(ncg) "de ser testigos." 24(cg) "no creo en padrinos para este sacramento." 24(ncg) "no sé." 25(cg) "apoyar en el catecismo." 26(cg) "no sé." 31(ncg) "no sé." 32(cg) "que comulque seguido." 32(cg) "Enseñarle a rezar al niño y guiarlo en cómo hacer su confesión ante el sacerdote." 43(ncg) "guiar a los niños a comulgar cada domingo y sigan su religión." 43 (ncg) "no creo en padrinos de primera comunión." 45(cg) n/a 30-50(ncg) n/a 30-50(cg) n/a30-50(cg) "Igual que arriba y que ayuden a el niño y lo lleven a la iglesia Católica aunque los padres no vayan." "tratar de conducir al niño por la religión 30-50 (ncg) católica." 50(cq) n/a50+(ncg) "Para que el niño siga en el camino de Dios." 50+(cg) "de la vida cristiana." 50+(cg) "Guiarlo en la fe y hacia la comunión." 50+(ncg) "No se." 54(cg) "llevarlos a misa y que comulgan cada domingo." 54(ncg) "asegurarse que los niños vayan a comulgar cada domingo y sigan su fe."

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55(ncg) "No sé."
59(cq) "No se."
60(cg) "Frecuente el sacramento de la comunión."
62(cg) "ser un buen ejemplo para el niño, confesarse y
comulgar."
?(cg) "same as baptism"
     ¿Confirmación?
18-29 (ncg) n/a
18-29(cg) n/a
18-29(cg) "Igual que arriba."
18-29(ncg) "No se."
18-29(cg) "No estoy seguro. Quizás como testigos."
22(cg) "No sé."
23(cg) "en verdad, no se. Yo fui confirmada cuando era muy
chica."
23(ncg) "no sé."
24(cg) "lo mismo del bautismo."
24(ncg) "no sé."
25(cg) n/a
26(cg) "Igual que bautismo."
31(ncg) "no sé."
32(cq) n/a
32(cg) "Ayudarle al niño ó joven a confirmar el bautismo, a
vivir más cristianamente y a sentir más necesidad de ir a la
iglesia y recibir los sacramentos."
43(ncg) "las mismas que el bautismo."
43(ncg) "la misma del bautismo."
45(cg) n/a
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) n/a
30-50(cg) "Igual que arriba."
30-50(ncg) "No se."
50(cg) n/a
50+(ncg) "Inculcarle al niño la fe verdadera de Dios y de su
iglesia."
50+(cg) "Confirmar la fe del niño."
50+(cg) "no se."
50+(ncg) "Como segundo bautismo, para acabalar los sacramentos
de la iglesia, para que los padrinos lo instruyan por si
faltan los padrinos de bautismo."
54(cg) "Lo mismo que bautismo."
54(ncg) "Mismo que bautismo."
55(ncg) "No sé."
59(cg) "Dar el rosario y la vela y el libro."
60(cg) "el sacramento mas Importante."
62(cg) "saber con seguridad que le niño este bautizado."
?(cg) "same as baptism"
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¿Matrimonio?

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18-29(ncg) "Para que sean testigos de nuestra unión."
18-29(cg) "Para que sean testigos."
18-29(cg) "Iqual que arriba."
18-29(ncg) "No se."
18-29(cg) "De apoyar a la pareja en sus tiempos difíciles, por
ejemplo en caso de una separación o divorcio."
22(cq) "Para que velen por los problemas de la pareja, que les
ayuden espiritual y económicamente y que platiquen con
ellos."
23(cq) "los padrinos deben poder quiar al la pareja en una
vida cristiana donde la base siempre sea Dios."
23 (ncg) "testigos."
24(cg) "a consejar al matrimonio (la pareja)."
24 (ncg) "echarles el lazo."
25(cg) "ayudar y guiar en las alegrías y tristezas."
26(cg) "no sé."
31(ncg) "no sé."
32 (cg) n/a
32(cg) "De darse a respetar y tener confianza con la pareja,
poder de hablar de los problemas que juran. (si hay peleos).
43 (ncg) "No se."
43(ncg) "orientar al matrimonio si tiene problemas."
45(cg) "Para dar consejos cuando tengan problemas serios."
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) n/a
30-50(cg) "Igual que arriba."
30-50(ncg) "Darles apoyo a los recién casados."
50(cq) n/a
50+(ncg) "Consejeros para la vida matrimonial."
50+(cg) "De aconsejarlos y ayudarlos con sus problemas."
50+(cg) "Apoyar y ayudar en el matrimonio."
50+(ncg) "No se."
54(cg) "Mirar por la pareja y aconsejarlos y ayudarlos para
que tengan un buen matrimonio cristiano."
54 (ncg) "Ayudar a la pareja para que tengan una vida cristiana
donde siempre este Dios ayudarlos si tienen problemas,
aconsejarlos."
55(ncg) "No sé."
59(cg) "Dar las arras."
60(cg) "que sean casados por La iglesia."
62(cg) "De cooperar para la boda y como buen ejemplo para los
recién casados."
?(cg) "same as baptism"
2. Prácticas Sacramentales
a. ¿Ha recibido usted y los miembros de su familia los
siguientes sacramentos?
     ¿Bautismo?
18-29(ncg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "Si"
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18-29(cq) "Si"
18-29 (ncg) "Si"
18-29 (cg) "Si"
22(cg) "Si"
23(cg) "Si, solamente nuestro nuevo bebé todavía no."
23(ncg) "Si"
24(cg) "Si"
24(ncg) "Si"
25(cg) "Si"
26(cg) "Si"
31(ncg) "Yo si, mis hijos no."
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Si"
43(ncg) "Si, toda mi familia."
43(ncg) "Si, toda mi familia."
45(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si, todos."
30-50(ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) (Soltero, no familia) "Si"
54(cg) "Si"
54(ncg) "Si"
55(ncg) "Si"
59 (cg) "Si"
60(cg) "Si"
62(cg) "Si, todos."
?(cg) "Si"
    ¿Primera Comunión?
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Nada mas yo."
22(cg) "Si"
23(cg) "Si, nuestros (mis) hijos todavía no."
23(ncg) "Si"
24(cg) "Yo, no - mi esposa si, mi hijo esta muy pequeño
24(ncg) "Si"
25(cg) "Si"
26(cg) "Si"
31(ncg) "no"
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Si"
43(ncg) "Si, toda mi familia."
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43(ncg) "Si, solamente mi hijo mayor todavía no hace la
primera comunión."
45(Cq) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Todos menos un hijo."
30-50(ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "No. Nada mas dos hijos."
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "si"
50+(ncg) "Si"
54(cg) "Si, solamente mi hijo no."
54 (ncg) "Si"
55(ncg) "Si"
59(cg) "Yo no, mis hijos si."
60(cg) "Si"
62(cg) "Si, todos"
?(cg) "Si"
    ¿Confirmación?
18-29(ncg) "Si"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Yo no. No estoy seguro si mi familia."
22(cg) "Si"
23(cg) "Si"
23(ncg) "Si"
24(cg) "Yo y mi esposa si, mi hijo todavía no."
24 (ncg) "Si"
25(cg) "Si"
26(cg) "Si"
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Si"
43(ncg) "Si, toda mi familia."
43(ncg) "Si - tengo dos hijos que necesitan recibir este
sacramento."
45(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si, todos."
30-50(ncg) "Yo y esposo si, niños no."
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "No"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Si"
54(cg) "Si"
54(ncg) "Si"
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55 (ncg) "El más chico, no"
59 (cg) "todos"
60(cg) "Si"
62(cg) "Si"
?(cg) "Si"
   ¿Confesión?
18-29(ncg) "Nunca"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29 (cq) "Si"
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Yo si, mi familia creo que no."
22(cg) "Si"
23(cg) "Si"
23(ncg) "Si"
24(cg) "Yo no, mi esposa si, mi hijo todavía no."
24(ncg) "Si"
25(cg) "Si"
26(cg) "Si"
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Si"
43(ncg) "Si, toda mi familia."
43 (ncg) "Si - menos mi hijo mayor."
45(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "No, todos no van, solo un hijo que fue a un
retiro."
30-50(ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "No. Un hijo nada mas."
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Si"
54(cg) "Si, mi hijo no."
54(ncg) "Si"
55(ncg) "Si"
59(cg) "si, todos."
60(cg) "Si"
62(cg) "Si"
?(cg) "Si"
  ¿Matrimonio? (si no, es porque son solteros o casados por el
   civil?)
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Nada"
18-29(cg) "Unos familiares están solteros, otro esta casado
solo por el civil."
18-29(ncg) "No, mi madre por el civil, mi hermano por la
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Iglesia, los demás solteros."
18-29(cg) "Nada mas yo. Mi mamá por el civil."
22(cg) "Solteros ó por el civil."
23(cg) "Solo somos casados por el civil."
23 (ncg) "No. Mi mama."
24(cg) "No soy casado solamente por el civil."
24(ncg) "Solteros - ó casados por la iglesia menos una
hermana."
25(cg) "No soy soltera."
26(cg) "Si"
31(ncg) "No. no estamos casados."
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Solteros."
43(ncg) "Nunca me he casado por la iglesia."
43(ncg) "el matrimonio - yo si. Mis hijos no - ninguno."
45(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Tres, una hija al civil, los demás solteros, y solo
al civil."
30-50(ncg) "No, casados por civil."
50(cg) "No, porque soy soltero."
50+(ncg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "No, soltero."
54(cg) "Solo soy casada por el civil."
54(ncg) "No soy casado por la iglesia."
55 (ncg) "El más chico es soltero."
59(cg) "Yo si, mis hijos no."
60(cg) "decisiones propias"
62(cg) "Yo, 1 hija casada por la iglesia, otra por el civil,
y 2 solteros."
?(cq) "Si"
   ¿Unción de Los Enfermos?
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Yo no, mi madre si."
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No."
22(cg) "Si en mi familia"
23(cg) "No, todavía no."
23(ncg) "Si"
24 (cg) "No"
24 (ncg) "No"
25(cg) "no"
26(cg) "No"
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "no"
32(cg) "Si"
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43 (ncg) "No"
43 (ncg) "no"
45(cg) "Si"
30-50 (ncg) "No"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50 (cg) "No"
30-50 (ncg) "No"
50(cg) "No"
50+(ncg) "Si, mi papa le dieron los santos Dios."
50+(cg) "No"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "No."
54 (cg) "No"
54 (ncg) "No"
55(ncg) "no"
59(cg) "Mi papa."
60(cg) "Si"
62(cg) "Si, yo nada mas."
?(cg) "no"
b. ¿Va usted y los miembros de su familia a misa cada domingo?
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Por regular si."
18-29(cg) "Yo si, unos miembros no."
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Si. Yo y mi esposa."
22(cg) "Si"
23(cg) "No todos los domingos, mi esposo trabaja los Domingos,
tratamos de ir lo mas que podamos."
23(ncg) "No. Mama durante la semana"
24(cg) "No, de vez en cuando si."
24 (ncg) "No"
25(cg) "Si, cada domingo"
26(cg) "no"
31(ncg) "no"
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "yo y mis hermano que estamos aquí si. Pero mi familia
allá en el rancho en México van cada vez que va el sacerdote
(no hay un padre 'de planta,' va cada mes)."
43 (ncg) "No, solamente uno de mis hijos va mas seguido que los
demás."
43 (ncg) "No"
45(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "No"
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "No, solo yo de vez en cuando."
30-50(ncg) "No, a veces."
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Nada mas mi hijo."
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
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50+(ncg) "No"
54(cg) "No, yo trato de ir cada domingo." 54(ncg) "No"
55(ncq) "Yo no, mis hijos si."
59(cg) "Yo de vez en cuando, mis hijos no."
60(cg) "Si"
62(cq) "solo yo, mi esposo, y una hija - un hijo va de cuando
en cuando."
?(cg) "nosotros si y algunos de mis hijos."
c. ¿Comulga cuando va a misa? Si no, ¿Cuales son las razones
para que una persona no vaya a comulgar?
18-29(ncg) "Nunca he comulgado por que todavía no estoy
preparado."
18-29(cq) "No porque no he hecho la primera comunión."
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(ncg) "No, no he hecho la primera comunión."
          "Si."
18-29 (cg)
22(cg) "Ahorita no. (me conformo con la comunión espiritual).
Si uno sabe que tiene algún pecado en el cual se ha ofendido
a alguien. Primero, me debo de confesar."
23(cg) "No, muchas personas no comulgan porque no se sienten
que merecen comulgar. Otros piensan que están viviendo en
pecado y no pueden comulgar."
23 (ncg) "Yo no. Pecado"
24(cg) "No, porque todavía no hago la primera comunión."
24(ncg) "No. Porque no me confieso, ó porque me voy al baile
en la noche y tomo."
25(cg) "Si"
26(cq) "A veces. Porque no me he confesado."
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "Si. Tener pecados mortales."
32(cg) "Si. Cuando me siento con pecados grande ó mortal me
debo de confesar primero y luego comulgar."
43(ncg) "No. Porque sienten que no merecen recibir a Dios y no
son perdonados."
43(ncg) "Si, a veces."
45(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "No, porque no esta bien con Dios."
30-50(cg) "No, porque no se confiesa la persona."
30-50(ncg) "No, porque no se confiesa."
50(cg) "Si - para recibir el cuerpo de Dios."
50+(ncg) "No. No me gusta la confesión."
50+(cg) "Si. Varias, por falta de fe."
50+(cg) "Si. Pecado."
50+(ncg) "No, porque no se han confesado."
54(cg) "No, porque yo no estoy casada por la iglesia. Porque
no se siente que Dios ha perdonado. Se siente pecador."
54(ncg) "No. No creen que merecen comulgar, no se sienten
perdonados, o están viviendo en pecado. No son casados por la
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iglesia."
55(ncg) "Si"
59(cg) "Si, cuando me toca oír toda la misa."
60(cg) "Si"
62(cg) "Si"
?(cg) "Si. Que no se siento digno de recibir a Dios, o esta
en pecado mortal."
d. ¿Qué tan seguido van los miembros de su familia a
confesarse?
18-29 (ncg) "Nunca"
18-29(cg) "Nunca"
          "Unos cuando lo piensan necesario - pero mis
18-29 (cg)
hermanos no van."
18-29(ncg) "Nunca, solo un hermano mas frecuente."
18-29(cg) "Tenemos mas de un año que no vamos a confesarnos.
Supongo que deberíamos de ir mas seguido."
22(cq) "Cada mes."
23 (cg) "Nunca"
23(ncg) "Yo no me e confesado desde a ase 16 años. de los 6
años cuando hice mi primera comunión."
24(cg) "No se."
24(ncg) "Una vez cada 6 meses."
        "Cada dos meses."
25 (cg)
        "Cada año ó 2 años."
26 (cg)
31(ncg) "Nunca"
32(cg) "1 o 2 beses por año."
32(cg) "Cada mes. ó según sus necesidades."
43(ncg) "No se, mis hijos ya crecieron y no viven conmigo."
43(ncg) "Mis hijos casi nunca."
45(cq) "no se"
30-50(ncg) "no muy seguido."
30-50(cg) n/a
30-50(cg) "No se confiesan."
30-50(ncg) "Yo y esposo nunca, niños que han hecho primera
comunión seguido."
50(cg) "una ves por año."
50+(ncg) "3-6 meses/mi hijo."
50+(cg) "Unos por lo menos cada tres meses, otros pasan años
en que practican la confesión."
50+(cg) "Cada mes o dos meses."
50+(ncg) "De joven cada mes. Ahora no me voy."
54(cg) "dos o tres veces al año."
54(ncg) "no se."
55(ncg) "No sé."
59(cg) "No van."
60(cg) "van seguido."
62(cg) "mi esposo nunca va, mí hija 1 vez cada seis meses, mis
otros hijos no se, tal vez nunca."
?(cg) "unos seguido, otros uno o dos veces al año y otros, no
se. "
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2. Oración a la Virgen María y a los Santos
a. ¿Tiene su familia algún momento durante el día para rezar?
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Yo y mi esposo
                               rezamos antes de comer y al
acostarnos. En la casa de mis Padres no rezábamos, solo yo y
mi Madre a veces rezábamos el rosario."
18-29(ncg) "No."
18-29(cg) "Si. Antes de cada comida. y antes de acostarnos."
22(cg) "Ahorita no. Solamente los miércoles cuando vamos al
grupo a hacer oración (jóvenes para Cristo) y los viernes
(oración y reunión)."
23(cg) "Si, en la noche, antes de acostarse."
23 (ncg) "No"
24(cg) "Si, en la noche antes de dormir."
24 (ncg) "Los más chiquillos nada más, que están allá en México
con mi mamá."
25(cg) "Si"
26(cg) "En la noche antes de acostarse."
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "Si"
32(cq) "No. Solamente de vez en cuando, cuando llegamos a la
misma hora y a la hora de la comida."
43 (ncg) "No."
43 (ncg) "no"
45(cg) "Si, a la virgen María."
30-50(ncg) "no"
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "En la noche."
30-50(ncg) "En la noche."
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "en la noche, antes de dormir."
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Al acostarse o levantarse."
54(cg) "No. Yo rezo sola."
54 (ncg) "No."
55(ncg) "no"
59(cg) "Yo si, en la noche. No rezamos juntos."
60(cq) "no"
62(cg) "no"
?(cg) "Al levantarnos, a la comida y al acostarse"
b. ¿Qué oraciones reza su familia?
18-29 (ncg) "Ninguna"
18-29(cg) "Ninguna"
18-29(cg) "Oraciones de nuestras propias palabras."
18-29(ncg) "No se, cada quien reza solo."
18-29(cg) "El Padre Nuestro y en sus propias palabras."
22(cg) "El rosario, padre nuestro, ave maría, el credo y otras
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leidas (de
                         la biblia o alguna
oraciones
                                                  imagen
                                                          que
compramos.)"
23(cg) "El Padre Nuestro."
23 (ncg) "No"
       "Padre Nuestro, persinar, propia oración (propias
24 (cg)
palabras)".
24(ncg) "Padre nuestro, Ave María, Credo
25(cg) "Tres aves marias por la mañana y tres por la tarde y
rezamos el rosario cuando nos reunimos todos."
26(cg) "El rosario."
31(ncg) "Ninguna"
32(cg) "el Rosario."
32(cg) "Bendición de los alimentos, oración oral entre todos,
Padre Nuestro y Ave María, el Credo."
43 (ncg) "No se, ellos ya no viven conmigo."
43(ncg) "Yo creo que no han de rezar."
45(cg) "Padre Nuestro y Ave María."
30-50(ncg) no answer
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "Padre Nuestro y oraciones en un libro que compramos
en la iglesia."
30-50(ncg) "El Padre Nuestro."
50 (cg)
        "El Padre Nuestro y otros."
50+(ncg) "Padre Nuestro, el ángel de la guardia."
50+(cg) "El rosario a la Virgen María."
50+(cg) "Padre Nuestro o personal."
50+(ncg) "Ave María, Magnifica, partes del rosario."
54(cg) "Mis propias oraciones, mis propias palabras."
54 (ncg) "Aves María, Padre Nuestro."
55(ncg) "No se."
59(cg) "El credo entre ellos mismos."
60(cg) "Padres Nuestros, Ave Marias, salves."
62(cg) "Nunca rezamos en familia, solo lo hacíamos cuando
mis hijos estaban chicos. Ya todos son adultos y solo vive uno
conmigo y mi esposo."
?(cg) "Padre Nuestro, Ave María, ciertos resp, el rosario."
c. ¿Qué tan seguido rezan como familia?
18-29 (ncg) "Nunca"
18-29(cg) "nunca"
18-29(cg) "Tres veces al Día."
18-29 (ncg) "Nunca"
18-29 (cg) "Cada día, antes de cada comida."
22(cg) "Ya hace bastante tiempo que no lo hacemos. Cuando
comemos la decimos personalmente (not as a group)."
23(cg) "Solo cuando oramos con los niños antes de acostarnos."
23 (ncg) "Nunca"
24(cg) "Ninguna vez, solamente en misa."
24 (ncg) "N/A. No están aquí."
25(cg) "Dos ó tres veces por semana."
26(cg) "Nada más el rosario. Rezamos más cuando tenemos una
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necesidad (por ejemplo: un terremoto)."
31(ncg) "Nunca"
32(cg) n/a
32(cq) "De vez en cuando. Alguna vez al mes."
43(ncg) "Yo vivo solo."
43 (ncg) "Nunca"
45(cg) "Casi no."
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) "Nunca"
30-50(cg) "Nunca, siempre separados."
30-50(ncg) "No muy seguido."
50(cg) "muy pocas veces."
50+(ncg) "Cada noche."
50+(cg) "No muy seguido."
50+(cg) "De vez en cuando - Navidad, Pascua, antes de comer."
50+(ncg) n/a
54 (cq) "Nunca"
54 (ncg) "Nunca"
55 (ncg) "nunca"
59(cq) "nunca"
60(cg) "cuando mueren familiares"
62 (cg) "nunca"
?(cg) "todos los días al la hora de comida y al acostarse."
d. ¿Tiene su familia devociones especiales?
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29 (ncg) "No."
18-29(cg) "Tratamos de atender a las misas y días obligatorios
de la parroquia."
22(cq) "Si en el rancho en México, a la Virgen del Refugio (es
la patrona del Rancho en Zacatecas - Fresnillo.)."
23(cg) "No"
23(ncg) "mi mama si, yo no."
24 (cg) "No"
24 (ncg) "No"
25(cg) "devoción al rosario y al corazón de Jesús."
26(cg) "Sí. Rezar oraciones todos los días."
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "No"
32(cg) "Si, a la virgen de Guadalupe; a la virgen del Refugio,
al Santo Niño de Atocha (Fresnillo, Zacatecas). A nuestro
Señor Jesucristo."
43 (ncg) "no"
43 (ncg) "no"
45(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) "no"
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50 (ncg) "No"
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50 (cg) "No"
50+(ncg) "No"
50+(cg) "No."
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "No"
54(cg) "Yo siempre le prendo velas al corazón de Jesús y a
la Virgen."
54(ncg) "Solo a la Virgen de Guadalupe."
55(ncg) "No"
59(cg) "Yo ir a la iglesia."
60(cg) "Si"
62 (cg) "No"
?(cg) "tratamos de ir in seguido a misa"
    ¿Hay prácticas religiosas que Ud. observa en fechas
especiales durante el año?
18-29(ncg) "no"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "Navidad, Pascua."
18-29(ncg) "Navidad"
18-29(cg) "Si. Viernes Santo, Pascuas. Noche Buena."
22(cg) "-El 4 de Julio a la Virgen del Refugio.
-En Maya para la Santa Cruz
-Cuaresma, Semana Santa
-Navidad
-6 de Enero - los Santos Reyes."
23(cg) "La Pascua, Navidad, Easter, Viernes Santo, Día de
la Virgen de Guadalupe, Día de los Muertos."
23(ncg) "Si. Miércoles de ceniza, Viernes Santo, Easter."
24(cg) "Si, la Semana Santa, Navidad, la cuaresma."
24(ncg) "12 de Dic., posadas, Semana Santa, Cuaresma."
25(cg) "No"
26(cg) "3 de Mayo - Día de la Santa Cruz, 12 de Dic., Virgen de
Guadalupe, Patrón Santiago, en Junio (ver lo de los Santos),
Cristo Milagroso - Sept."
31(ncg) "no"
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Cuaresma, Semana Santa, Navidad, 12 de Diciembre,
Navidad, Año Nuevo, 4 de Julio (Virgen del Refugio),
Santa Cruz (3 de Mayo)."
43(ncg) "Domingo de Gloria (Easter), El día de la Virgen de
Guadalupe, Viernes Santo."
43 (ncg) "la Semana Santa."
45(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Navidad, Semana Santa."
30-50 (cg) "no"
30-50(cg) "San José, 12 de Diciembre, Santisima Santa Virgen
María, Santisimo cada mes."
30-50(ncg) "La pascua y navidad."
50(cq) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Me gusta ir a la iglesia en Semana Santa."
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50+(cg) "La Semana Santa y Navidad."
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Semana Santa (a solas, no en la iglesia)."
54(cg) "Domingo de Gloria, Día de los Muertos, Día de la
Virgen de Guadalupe, y Navidad."
54(ncg) "Navidad, Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe y Domingo de
Gloria."
55(ncg) "12 de Diciembre, Cuaresma."
59(cg) "Si, el domingo ramo, miércoles de ceniza."
60(cg) "Semana Santa, Navidad, 12 de Diciembre."
62(cg) "La Navidad, Cuaresma, Días Santos, 12 de Diciembre."
?(cg) n/a
f. ¿Que artículos religiosos tiene en su casa?
18-29(ncg) "La Biblia"
18-29(cg) "Las sagradas escrituras y algunas imagines de
Jesucristo."
18-29(cg) "Un Crucifijo, Biblias."
18-29 (ncg) "Ninguno"
18-29(cg) "Una cruz con la figura de Jesús."
22(cg) "Imagen de la virgen de Guadalupe, un crucifijo, el
divino Rostro, un rosario, la biblia, y algunos libros
religiosos, imagen de la Última Cena, imagen de 2 caminos (uno
del infierno y otro de Dios), imagen de San Francisco de Asís,
Virgen de . . . "
23(cg) "Retratos de Jesús, La Virgen de Guadalupe, Rosarios,
Estampas, y las palmas del último Domingo de Palmas."
23(ncg) "Fotos de santos, virgen, Jesucristo, dios. Cruces,
Rosario, biblia, libro de rezo, libro de costumbre."
24(cg) "Fotos de Dios, Rosarios, cruces, estampas religiosas."
24 (ncg) "Crucifijo, imágenes de Guadalupe, virgen del Socorro,
de San Juan, rosario."
25(cg) "Rosario y biblia, Los quince minutos"
26(cg) "Nuestra Señora del Sagrario, El Cristo Milagroso, El
Niño de Atocha, el Sagrada Corazón, el Ángel de mi guarda, la
Virgen de Guadalupe, biblia, rosario. Los 15 Minutos
de oración - es el mas importante."
31(ncg) "Crucifijo."
32(cg) "Imágenes y Cristos."
32(cq) "Divino Maestro, rosario, biblia, libros religiosos,
Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, la Última Cena, Virgen del Lourdes,
Virgen de Guadalupe, diferentes cuadros de Nuestro Señor
Jesucristo."
43 (ncg) "Una o dos cruces, Retratos de
                                             la Virgen de
Guadalupe."
43(ncg) "la Biblia, fotos de Jesucristo, La Santa Cena,
rosarios, la pila de la aqua bendita en la puerta de mi casa."
45(cg) "Rosario la biblia, y muchas oraciones."
30-50(ncg) "Imagines"
30-50(cg) "Imagines"
30-50(cg) "Dios nuestro Señor, Sagrado Corazón de Jesús,
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cuadros de Jesús, la Dolorosa."
30-50(ncg) "Retrato de Jesucristo."
50(cq) "medallas de cristo, rosarios, estampitas de la virgen
de Guadalupe."
50+(ncg) "Una imagen de Jesucristo, el Sagrado Corazón de
Jesús, el Ángel de la Guardia."
50+(cg) "Un Cristo, La Virgen de Guadalupe, Imagines de San
José."
50+(cq) "Imagines de Cristo, Crucifijos de la Virgen."
50+(ncg) "nada"
54(cg) "retratos de la Virgen de Guadalupe, retratos del
de Jesús, Rosarios, velas."
54(ncg) "Retratos, velas, rosarios."
55(ncg) "Sagrado Corazón, crucifijo, biblia, rosario, libros."
59(cg) "Sagrado Corazón, Virgen de Guadalupe, Crucifijo."
60(cg) "Imágenes"
62(cg) "Biblia, Rosario, imagen del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús,
la Virgen de Guadalupe, El Santo Niño, y un crucifijo."
?(cg) "El Cristo, La inmaculada Concepción, El Sagrado
corazón, la Virgen de Guadalupe."
q. ¿Este articulo religioso tiene un lugar especial en las
oraciones de su familia?
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
22(cg) "No"
23(cg) "No, cuando oramos estos artículos no tienen un lugar
especial. Solo cuando yo rezo el rosario lo sostengo en mis
manos."
23(ncg) "Si"
24(cg) "Si, uso la cruz que llevo colgada en mi cuello, para
persinar a mi hijo cada noche."
24 (ncg) "No"
25(cg) "Si"
26(cg) "En mi cuarto."
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Si, Nuestro Señor Jesucristo es algo especial, como el
centro de nuestra vida, el Divino Maestro."
43 (ncg) "no"
43 (ncg) "en las oraciones mías, si."
45(cg) "Si"
30-50 (ncg) "No"
30-50 (cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "si"
30-50(ncg) "No"
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncq) "No"
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50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) n/a
54(cg) "Muchas veces nos hincamos al rezar. Nos persinamos con
rosarios."
54 (ncg) "No."
55 (ncg) "No"
59(cg) "Si, me pongo enfrente de ellos cuando rezo."
60(cg) "Si"
62(cg) "Yo rezo el rosario, rezo en frente de la Virgen o el
crucifijo."
?(cq) n/a
C. Relaciones con la Iglesia

    Opiniones de las Parroquias Locales

a. ¿Piensa Ud. que la mayoría de la gente cree que pertenecen
a una losa parroquia?
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29(ncg) "No se."
18-29(cg) "Creo que si."
22(cg) "No"
23(cg) "Si, a la que asisten mas seguido."
23 (ncg) "No"
24(cg) "Si"
24 (ncg) "No"
25 (cg) "No"
26(cg) "No"
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "Algunas si, otras no."
32(cg) "No a dónde quiera que vayamos hay una parroquia
católica y ahí pertenecemos."
43(ncg) "Yo creo que si, a la van mas frecuentemente."
43(ncg) "si, donde uno esta acostumbrado."
45(cg) "No"
30-50(ncg) "No"
30-50 (cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Si"
50+(cg) "No"
50+(cg) "No"
50+(ncg) "si"
54(cq) "Yo creo que si."
54(ncg) "Yo creo que si."
55(ncg) "No"
59(cg) "Si, dependiendo a donde vive uno."
60(cg) "Si, mi familia."
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62(cg) "No, van a una y a otro."
?(cg) "La mayoría"
b. ¿Siente que pertenece a una parroquia en particular?
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Si, a la de San José."
22(cg) "No, solamente siendo católico."
23(cg) "Si, a Saint Joseph (San José.)
23 (ncg) "No"
24(cq) "Si"
24 (ncg) "No"
25(cg) "Si"
26(cg) "Depende del lugar donde vivo. (Pertenezco a dos)."
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Si. Donde quiera que voy está Jesucristo pero me
siento parte de la parroquia en la que estoy trabajando."
43(ncg) "No. No voy a misa muy seguido."
43(ncg) "Si a la del Pilar."
45(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "No"
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "Si y no, vamos a iglesias diferentes, pero mas a
San José."
30-50 (ncg) "No"
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Pues, si, pero no la he encontrado."
50+(cg) "No"
50+(cg) "No"
50+(ncg) "No"
54(cg) "si."
54 (ncg) "Yo no."
55 (ncg) "No"
59(cg) "Si, de Delhi."
60(cg) "Si, San José."
62(cg) "Si, a San José."
?(cg) "Si"
c. ¿Como comparia la parroquia a la que pertenece ahora con
otras parroquias a las que ha pertenecido?
18-29(ncg) "De ninguna manera."
18-29(cg) "No puedo comparar."
18-29(cg) "Me siento mas a gusto, pienso que el Padre (----)
es muy tratable."
18-29(ncg) "No pertenezco a ninguna."
18-29(cg) "Es la única parroquia a la que he pertenecido."
22(cg) "Depende de como vaya yo espiritualmente puede ser una
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iglesia grande y bonita pero depende de mi."
23(cg) "Estoy mas a gusto aquí, me siento muy a gusto con los
sacerdotes y la gente que trabaja en la iglesia."
23(ncg) "Todas son diferentes en las comodidades para sus
miembros."
24(cg) "No hay comparación. Para mi es lo mismo."
24 (ncg) "Igual que todas. Nada más voy porque es una iglesia,
para mí todas son iguales."
25(cq) "San José me qusto mucho pues es en la que mas estado
activa."
26(cg) "Se me hace mejor aquí porque hay más misas por día."
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "Igual"
32(cg) "No puedo comparar. Para mí todas son iguales."
43(ncg) "No creo que haga pertenecido a una parroquia
alguna vez."
43(ncg) "de tamaño, unas han sido mas grandes que otras."
45(cg) "tengo muchos años en esta iglesia y siento que
aquí tengo una gran familia."
30-50 (ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) "No he comparado."
30-50(cg) "Se arraiga uno a su iglesia, a los sacerdotes, como
cantan, etc. Las misas son mas bonitas en San José."
30-50(ncg) "No aplica - no pertenecer a parroquia."
50(cg) "en nada porque es la misma de siempre"
50+(ncg) "Nunca he pertenecido a ninguna."
50+(cg) "En algunas parroquias hay mas movimientos de grupos
que en otras."
50+(cg) "Mas ricas en materialismo, mas comunidades." 50+(ncg) "Las veo igual."
54(cg) "Son diferentes pero Dios es igual en cualquier parte.
Aquí en los Estados Unidos no mas he pertenecido a una
parroquia. En México las iglesias tienen muchos santos y
velas, aquí son mas simples y se usan menos las flores y velas."
54(ncg) "No pertenezco a una parroquia."
55(ncg) "Nunca he tenido preferencia por una."
59(cg) "Pertenecía a la de San José antes. Son iguales."
60(cg) "Diferentes celebrantes."
62(cg) "físicamente la otra estaba mas chica, el altar tenía
mas santos que la de hoy, mas imágenes (en México). Los
sermones eran explicados mejor y eran mas largos que aquí."
?(cg) "cuando niña pertenecía a una parroquia mexicana y con
padres mexicanos y se sentía gusto ir a la iglesia porque
era como ir a otro hogar. y pienso que ahora con el padre
(---) y Padre (----) estoy empezando a sentirme en casa
por fin otra vez."
d. ¿Qué le gusta de su parroquia?
18-29 (ncq) n/a
18-29(cg) "Los crecimientos de mi comunidad."
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18-29(cq) "El Padre (---) y su modo de hacer que la gente se
sienta muy a gusto y confortable."
18-29(ncg) "No tengo parroquia."
18-29(cg) "La gente es muy amigable. Los padres son muy buenas
gentes."
22(cg) "-la unión que hay ahí. Va mucha gente y se siente uno
unido. -Me gusta el Cristo que está en el altar al frente.
El coro - las reuniones de Jóvenes para Cristo."
23(cg) "Todo, siempre cuando necesito ayuda con algo o algún
problema, los sacerdotes o la iglesia están disponibles
para ayudar."
23(ncg) "Aire acondicionado. Calenton. Grande"
24(cg) "Esta muy bonita, la palabra de Dios es la misma
en cualquier Iglesia."
24(ncg) "Nada. Todo es igual. A veces la música y los padres
cuando dan un buen sermón."
25(cg) "Los sacerdotes, nuestros misas y todos los
parroquianos."
26(cg) "Que hay más misas. Hoy más padres y atienden más
a uno."
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "un sacerdote hispano y activo"
32(cg) "Que hay mucha acción, mucho compromiso en la iglesia
a la que voy si quiero centrarme en lo de la iglesia y ser
activo."
43 (ncg) "No pertenezco a una parroquia."
43(ncg) "Todas las misas son en Español, y puedo ir a
cualquier misa el Domingo."
45 (cg) "todo"
30-50(ncg) "todo"
30-50(cg) "todo"
30-50(cg) "Misas, como las dicen, como el sacerdote explica,
como cantan, los prados afuera, el coro."
30-50(ncg) "El padre, como platica."
50(cg) "todo"
50+(ncg) "No pertenezco a una."
50+(cg) "Ahora las actividades que hay para la gente hispana."
50+(cg) "Todo pienso que esta bien."
50+(ncg) "Las explicaciones de los sacerdotes, el sermón."
54(cg) "Tienen misas en Español y los Padres son muy buena
gente."
54(ncg) n/a
55(ncg) "La misa, los cantos."
59(cg) "Como reza el padre, como da consejos."
60(cg) "todo"
62(cg) "Los padres son muy buenas personas, aunque sean
americanos tratan muy bien a los Hispanos. los de el coro
cantan muy bonito."
?(cg) "los sacerdotes"
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e. ¿Le gustaría hacer algunas sugerencias a su parroquia?

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18-29 (ncg) n/a
8-29 (cg) "no"
18-29(cg) "No - o si, bueno, no se si la parroquia ofrezca
clases de Biblia en Inglés o Español, y si no, pues quisiera
que los ofrecieran."
18-29 (ncg) "No."
18-29(cg) "Si, me gustaría que el padre que este dando misa no
se ponga a platicar o saludar por bastante tiempo con una
persona en particular a final de misa. Me gustaría que primero
saludara o despidiera a la gente que va saliendo a misa. Y si
hay alguna persona que tiene una pregunta en largo, que le
diga que lo espere a un lado."
22(cg) "Si. para lo de Semana Santa, en la misa de vigilia
cuando se adora a Jesucristo la gente se amontonaba a adorarlo
y había mucho desorden. Sugerencia: que tengan mas orden."
23 (cg)
       "En verdad no, yo me siento muy a gusto con mi
parroquia."
23(ncg) "mantener una pistola. Estudiar martial arts, para
protegerse mejor. Para que no los asalten"
24(cg) "No"
24(ncg) "No sé."
25(cg) "No, creo que todo esta bien por el momento"
26(cg) "En tiempo de pasadas: organizar yo una pasada para
que se vea mejor. El día 12 de Dic. - Hacer un carro alegórico
como los hacemos en mi tierra. (con gente grande para que se
vea mejor)."
31(ncg) "No, que les podría decir si no voy."
32(cg) "por ahorita no"
32(cg) "Que nos tratáramos de unir más con las demás
parroquias del condado, tanto en el amor (de Jesucristo) como
en oración."
43(ncg) n/a
43 (ncg) "no"
45(cg) "que tenga mas cosas en español."
30-50(ncg) "no"
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "No"
50(cg) "No"
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si. Traten de evangelizar con métodos que acerquen
mas a los fieles a la espiritualidad."
50+(ncg) "si"
54(cg) "Me gustaría que los Padres visitaran las vecindades al
rededor de las iglesias mas para que conocieran a los
parroquianos mejor."
54(ncg) n/a
55(ncg) "No Bueno que motivan más a la gente, que la ayuden a
envolverse más en la Iglesia."
59(cg) "Cuando sea necesario."
60(cg) "un buen coro en las misas."
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?(cg) "Que hubiera misiones en español, Encuentros matrimonial
cursillos"
2. Respuesta de la Parroquia a Necesidades Espirituales
a. ¿Siente que sus necesidades espirituales están siendo
atendidas en su parroquia?
18-29(ncg) n/a
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(ncg) "No tengo parroquia, no se."
18-29(cg) "Si"
22(cg) "Si"
23(cg) "Si"
23(ncg) "Si"
24(cg) "Si"
24(ncg) "Si"
25(cg) "Si"
26(cg) "A veces no. A veces los padres están todos ocupados
ó que hablan inglés y no les entiende uno."
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "Si"
32(cg) "Si"
43(ncq) n/a
43(ncg) "Si, los padres son Hispanos y parecen entender todas
     (nuestras) necesidades, ellos entienden
costumbres."
45(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "no"
30-50(cg) "Si, yo soy la que no me acerco a ella." 30-50(ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Para mi si, pero muchas personas no."
50+(ncg) "Si"
54(cg) "Yo pienso que si."
54(ncg) "no pertenezco a una parroquia."
55(ncg) "No sé, como no tengo una sola parroquia."
59(cg) "Si"
60(cg) "Si"
62(cg) "Si"
?(cg) "en unas formas"
b. ¿Qué cree que una parroquia necesita hacer u ofrecer para
atender nuestras necesidades espirituales?
18-29 (ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) n/a
18-29(cg) "Asistir a la gente con sus problemas espirituales
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62 (cq) "no"

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y también los que no son espirituales. Hacerlos sentirse
bienvenidos a la Iglesia."
18-29(ncg) "No se"
18-29(cg) "Pues yo pienso que los padres de esta parroquia
están haciendo muy bien trabajo para comprender/complacer a la
comunidad hispana."
22(cg) "-Oue hava confesión.
-Sacramento de la comunión
-Todos los sacramentos
-Que hubiera grupos de jóvenes que pudieran dar orientación.
-Estudios de la Biblia."
23(cg) "Entender y estar dispuestos a escuchar a la gente,
tener mas grupos de oración Hispana."
23(ncg) "Tiempo, consejos, útiles grupos organizados para
ayudar a la gente pobre."
24(cg) "Solamente sequir predicando la palabra de Dios."
24(ncg) "Nada. Cada quien se siente como quiere."
25(cg) "Dar misas, tener sacerdotes disponibles y ofrecer
confesiones frecuentemente."
26(cg) "Ponemos atención a lo que uno dice."
31(ncg) "No se."
32(cg) n/a
32(cg) "Que le de a la gente preparación del compromiso con la
Iglesia (preparación de los laicos pues lo sacerdotes son
pocos). Que haya gente preparada y lista al servicio de la
gente cuando la necesite."
43 (ncg) n/a
43(ncg) "Yo pienso que tal vez hacernos sentir mas como si
estuviéramos en nuestro país. Las fiestas como las de la
Virgen de Guadalupe o las posadas son muy importante en
México."
45(cg) "Convivir con la gente."
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cq) n/a
30-50(cg) "Tener buenos sacerdotes que sean comprensivos y se
relacionen con las personas. Buenos coordinadores para
Jóvenes para Cristo."
30-50(ncg) "Que den apoyo a los necesitados."
50(cg) "Mucha oración."
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "Sobretodo, tener el idioma."
50+(cg) "Formar grupos de oración que como Jóvenes Para
Cristo, adustos mas retiros de todo tipo pero que como los
sacramentos sean requisito de la Iglesia."
50+(ncg) "No se."
54(cg) "Deben de tener mías en Español, Rosarios y grupos de
devoción a María, El Espíritu Santo y al Corazón de Jesús."
54(ncg) "Entender las costumbres de la gente Mexicana."
55(ncg) "Hablar mas a Dios. Que se entrequen mas a Dios, que
se le pida con mas devoción. Que motivan mas a la gente
(no solamente con los rezos que deben de ser)."
59(cq) "Rezar por uno."
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60(cg) "un buen sacerdote que sea hispano"
62(cg) "lo que ase la parroquia de San José."
?(cg) "necesitan de vez en cuando un padre mexicano que
conozca nuestros costumbres, y que nos hable tocante la familia, en el hogar, como vivir mayor como católicos, dando
consejos a esposos, a padres y hijos."
c. ¿Hace su parroquia estas cosas?
18-29 (ncg) n/a
18-29 (cg) n/a
18-29(cg) "Pienso que si, aunque no estoy segura."
18-29 (ncg) n/a
18-29(cg) "Si"
22(cg) "Si"
23(cg) "Si pero podrían tener mas grupos de devoción y
oración Hispana."
23(ncg) "si"
24(cg) "Si"
24 (ncg) n/a
25(cg) "Si"
26(cg) "no"
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "si"
32(cg) "Si"
43 (ncg) n/a
43(ncg) "Si, siempre no es igual, como si uno estuviera en
México, pero la parroquia si hace estas cosas."
45(cq) "Creo que si"
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) "No se."
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "No se."
50(cg) "si"
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si, pero falta mas."
50+(ncg) "no se."
54(cg) "Si, tienen varios grupos de Oración y tienen varias
misas en Español."
54(ncg) n/a
55(ncg) "no"
59(cg) "Si"
60(cg) "si"
62(cg) "si"
?(cq) "no"
d. ¿Podría describir dos experiencias o eventos en su
parroquia que le alimentaron espiritualmente?
18-29(ncq) n/a
18-29(cg) "El retiro de iniciación."
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18-29(cg) "Los sermones, cuando dado de corazón y
carismaticamente, me han alimentado."
18-29(ncg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Pues en ciertos domingos en que el padre da una
misa muy especialmente buena, es algo muy espiritualmente
nutritivo."
22(cg) "1) El retiro de iniciación cristiana en Riverside. Yo
no sabia lo que andaba buscando y sentía odio contra muchas
personas y me hizo ver la realidad de las cosas. 2)
Aniversario de Jóvenes para Cristo. Estuvimos reunidos de
todas las parroquias y me lleno espiritualmente. 3) Cuando
fuimos a hacer oración a la playa y pedimos por la necesidades
de cada uno."
23(cg) "Bueno parece que cada vez que tengo algún problema, y
voy a misa, el sacerdote habla de algo casi igual y aprendo
como resolver mi problema."
23(ncg) "El padre da misa y uno relaciona lo que dice."
24(cg) "Hay veces que tengo un problema, y cuando voy a misa,
el Padre habla de algo parecido y entiendo por que me paso o
porque estoy pasando por lo que estoy pasando."
24(ncg) "La música del órgano."
25(cg) "La forma que los
25 (cg)
             forma que los sacerdotes hablan
                                                    con
                                                          las
parroquianos."
26(cq) "En cuaresma cuando hablan de Dios nuestro Señor."
31(ncg) "No"
32(cg) "Los retiros de Jóvenes para Cristo."
32(cg) "1) El grupo de Jóvenes para Cristo. He entrado en
una comunicación mas profunda con Dios. 2) Retiro de Jóvenes
para Cristo. Ahí reconocí que yo tenía un Dios a mi manera y
no como El es. Que sea como sea le debo de dar gracia y sin El
voy al fracaso."
43 (ncg) "No he tenido ninguna."
43(ncg) "en este momento no puedo recordar alguna."
45(cg) "Desde que empezó la misa en español yo tenía una gran
pena pues mis padres habían muerto y los sacerdotes de
esta iglesia me dieron consuelo y fe para seguir viviendo."
30-50(ncg) "Un encuentro con el Señor."
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "1) Cuando mi hijo hizo el retiro, porque cuando
llegamos a este país mi hijo estaba muy deprimido. El tuvo un
cambio con Jóvenes Para Cristo. 2) Cuando llegue a este país,
la iglesia me dio fortaleza. Nos enraizamos de una iglesia."
30-50(ncg) "Cuando mi hijo hizo la primera comunión."
50(cg) "La feria anual y eventos recreativos."
50+(ncg) n/a
        "El
50+(cg)
             grupo de Jóvenes Para Cristo y clases de
catecismo."
50+(cg) "Las Mañanitas al La Virgen y las misas de sanación."
50+(ncg) "Dando buen consejos y explicaciones de Joven en
México y todavía las guardo y recuerdo."
54(cg) "Bueno, cuando yo voy a rezar a la iglesia (no durante
misa) y paso tiempo cerca del Santisimo me siento muy bien y
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en paz."
54(ncg) "No voy a la iglesia."
55(ncg) "Cuando exponer el Santisimo. Cantos que me hacen
estremecer."
59(cg) "Si, estaba yo llorando y el padre vino y me dio un
buen consejo que me animo mucho."
60(cg) "Si"
62(cg) "Que antes no hablaban español, ni confesaban en
español, ni tenían misas en español y ahora si."
?(cg) "Encuentro matrimonial hace Quince años."
3. Respuesta Parroquial a Grupos Etnicos
a. ¿Se siente bienvenido en su parroquia?
18-29(ncg) n/a
18-29(cg) "No del todo."
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(ncg) "No tengo parroquia."
18-29 (cg) "Si."
22(cg) "Si"
23(cg) "Si, siempre."
23(ncg) "Si"
24(cg) "Si"
24(ncg) "No tengo parroquia."
25(cg) "Si"
26(cg) "Si"
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "si"
32(cg) "si"
43(ncg) "No pertenezco a una parroquia."
43(ncg) "Si, todos se sienten bienvenidos en la casa de Dios,
zno?"
45(cg) "si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "si"
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "si"
54(cg) "Si"
54(ncg) "No pertenezco a una parroquia, pero me he sentido
bienvenido en cualquier iglesia adonde he ido."
55(ncg) "si"
59(cg) "Si"
60(cg) "si"
62(cg) "si"
?(cg) "si"
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b. ¿Siente que su parroquia atiende a su raza y a su idioma?

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18-29 (ncg) n/a
18-29(cg) "si"
18-29(cg) "Mas o menos si."
18-29(ncg) "No se"
18-29(cg) "Si. Muy bien. Hacen un esfuerzo muy grande."
22(cg) "si"
23(cg) "Si, podría mejorar, pero yo me siento a gusto."
23(ncg) "si"
24(cg) "si"
24(ncg) "si"
25(cg) "si"
26(cg) "si"
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "si"
32(cg) "Ahorita si. Hace como 2 años no. Ahora ya los padres
hablan Español y hay mas misas en Español."
43(ncg) "No se, yo no voy a la iglesia."
43(ncg) "Si, yo vivo en una parte que tiene mucha gente Mexicana y a la parroquia que yo voy todo esta en nuestro
idioma, Español."
45(cg) "si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "Si"
50(cg) "si y muy bien"
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si muy bien."
50+(ncg) "Si"
54(cg) "Si"
54 (ncg) "No se."
55(ncg) "si"
59(cg) "Si"
60(cg) "si hay discriminación"
62(cg) "si"
?(cq) "si"
c. ¿Ha tenido alguna vez una dificultad en su parroquia debido
a diferencias en el idioma o a diferencias culturales?
18-29(ncg) n/a
18-29 (cg) "no"
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29(ncg) "No."
18-29(cg) "No."
22(cg) "No Hasta ahorita ninguna."
23(cg) "No, nunca."
23(ncg) "no"
24(cg) "No"
24(ncg) "No. Siempre voy a donde hablan español."
25(cg) "no"
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26(cg) "No"
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "no"
32 (cg) "no"
43 (ncg) "no"
43 (ncg) "no, nunca."
45(cg) "no"
30-50(ncg) "No"
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50 (ncg) "No"
50(cg) "no nunca"
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "Yo en realidad no."
50+(cg) "No"
50+(nca) "No"
54 (cg) "No"
54 (ncg) "A veces he ido a unas iglesias donde no hablan
Español y no me he podido explicar."
55 (ncg) "no"
59 (cg) "No"
60(cg) "si"
62(cg) "si, originalmente cuando no tenían servicios ni padres
que hablaban español."
?(cg) "Si, pero con otros sacerdotes"
d. ¿Que cree que una parroquia necesita hacer u ofrecer para
atender a necesidades culturales o del idioma?
18-29(ncg) n/a
18-29(cg) "Si"
18-29(cg) "Tienen que ser sensibles a la cultura Hispana y
claro saber hablar el idioma."
18-29(ncg) "Hablar Español, dar servicios en español."
18-29(cg) "Tratar de aprender mas de la cultura hispana para
poder comprender mas a las necesidades de la comunidad
hispana."
22(cg) "-Tener sacerdotes bilingües.
-Que las gentes que van a esa parroquia, si son latinos,
hacer algo de nuestra cultura. Como el 12 de Diciembre.
-Tratar por igual a cualquier raza (para mi en la religión
no hay razas.)
23(cg) "Siempre tener a alguien disponible que hable español,
que los sacerdotes hablen y entienden el Español."
23(ncg) "estar hay si uno los necesita."
24(cg) "hablar y entender el idioma de la raza y creencias de
cada raza que pertenezca a tal parroquia."
24(ncg) "Dar misa en español"
       "todo esta bien"
25 (cg)
       "Que tengan padres de los 2 (Mexicans) para los que no
26 (cg)
sabemos hablar Inglés."
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31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "padres bilingües"
32(cg) "Entender las culturas de cada persona (ejemplo:
ingleses, de los hispanos). Conocer de cada cultura (Perú,
México, Colombia, etc.) para poder comunicarse y saber de
donde viene la persona."
43 (ncg) "Misas en Español."
43(ncg) "Deben de entender nuestras creencias y costumbres,
Nosotros los Mexicanos. Somos gente humilde que esta
acostumbrada a rezar a los santos, a La Virgen, tenemos una
devoción muy grande a nuestra religión."
45(cg) "Que el Párroco conozca nuestra cultura y forma de
pensar"
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) "nada"
30-50(cg) "Tener sacerdotes bilingües y también todos los que
trabajan ahí que sean bilingües y que servicios sean
bilingües."
30-50(ncg) "Nada, todo esta bien."
50(cg) "tener padres hispanos"
50+(ncq) n/a
50+(cg) "Conocer la cultura y el idioma de diferentes grupos."
50+(cg) "Mantener sacerdotes que conozcan y comprendan estas
dos cosas."
50+(ncg) "No se."
54(cg) "Yo pienso que deben de tratar de entender nuestras
costumbres. Como nosotros estamos acostumbrados a que los
padres siempre estén disponibles a cualquier hora. Aquí uno
siempre tiene que hacer cita."
54(ncg) "Tener varias misas en Español y tratar de ayudar
a la gente y a la comunidad hispana."
55(ncg) "Que hablan Español."
59(cg) "Que den misa en español."
60(cg) "Párroco hispano"
62(cg) "Que servicios de la iglesia, y los padres o ayudantes
hablan el idioma."
?(cq) "tratan a todas las personas igual"
4. Opiniones Acerca de los Sacerdotes
a. ¿Cuales son tres ideas generales o actitudes que cree que
la gente tiene acerca de los sacerdotes?
18-29(ncg) "De un dirigente, un representante y un amigo."
18-29(cg) "Es un abogado con Dios, no puedo dar una definición
certera."
18-29(cg) "1. Que no pecan.
2. Que no se les puede hablar con confianza por medio,
porque piensan que los van a regañar.
3. Que se creen mucho."
18-29(ncg) "1. Que son perfectos, saben todo.
2. les tienen miedo."
18-29(cg) "1. Que son muy amables.
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2. Que son muy estrictos."
22(cg) "-De respeto.
-De miedo (depende de los sacerdotes) cuando le dicen a
uno la verdad en la confesión.
-De ayuda cuando necesitamos algo. Se pone a platicar con
nosotros (en el grupo Jóvenes para Cristo).
23(cq) "Que son mayores (de edad). Que regañan a la gente.
Y que siempre deben de estar disponibles para ayudar."
23(ncg) "1. Comprensivos
2. son de buen humor"
24(cg) "1. el es la llave (guía) para entrar a la puerta de
Dios.
2. el es la presencia de Dios."
24(ncg) "-regaños si van con minifalda
-Representantes de Dios (pero hay muchas criticas de que no
hacen lo que aconsejan a la gente: por ejemplo - adulterio)."
25(cg) n/a
26(cg) "1. Ser como humano.
2. De Respeto.
3. De temor."
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) n/a
32(cg) "1. Sacerdotes son iqual que nosotros y no pueden
perdonarlos pecados."
2. Que andan con mujeres y en los vicios como todos.
3. Sinvergüenzas que estafan a la gente con las limosnas
y ofrendas."
43 (ncg)
        "deben de ser respetables, buen moral,
                                                      Buenas
personas, dedicados a Dios."
43(ncg) "Los sacerdotes deben de ser bien educados, amables y
siempre deben de tener tiempo para los parroquianos."
        "No son latinos"
45 (cg)
30-50(ncq) n/a
30-50(cg) n/a
30-50(cg) "1. Que los sacerdotes son muy dedicados a su
iglesia.
Que siempre están para cuando la gente los necesita.
3. Que los sacerdotes de aquí son como los de el Rancho, pero
aquí son diferentes, requieren santas (tantas?) cosas para
sacramentos."
30-50(ncg) "1. Creen que son personas casi santos y esperan
mucho de ellos (que sean perfectos).
2. Piensan que ellos no pecan.
3. Yo pienso que se deben de casar, no hay ninguna
razón porque deben de estar solteros."
       "que son muy buenos y amables con todos"
50+(ncg) "que son seres humanos y estas expuestos al pecado
igual que uno."
50+(cg) "1. La gente que los sacerdotes no puede tener errores
2. Piensan que los sacerdotes no pueden llevar la vida iqual
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como otras personas." 50+(cq) "Que deben actuar como santos, que no deben de enojarse o hacer malas cosas. Que siempre estén disponibles cuando la gente quiere." 50+(ncg) "1. Piensan mal de ellos y critican. 2. Los ven bien por sus consejos. 3. No se." "Fieles, religiosos, seguidores de la Palabra de 54 (cg) Dios." 54(ncg) "Que son religiosos, fieles a la Palabra de Dios, Regañones, amables." 55(ncg) "1. De respeto 2. Admiración 3. 59(cg) "son buenos." 60(cg) "no comunicación tocante al idioma" 62(cg) "1. Unos no quieren acercarse a la confesión porque dicen que son solo 'hombres' y que ellos se confiesan con Dios directamente. 2. Le tienen miedo a los sacerdotes, porque piensan que son superiores que ellos." ?(cg) "que siempre son muy ocupados" b. ¿Que tipo de relación cree que un católico debe de tener con un sacerdote? 18-29(ncg) "Si realmente tiene fe pues debe tener una relación bonita." 18-29(cg) "Una relación especial." 18-29(cg) "Una relación amigable, con confianza y sin temor." 18-29(ncg) "Deber de ser su amigo y no tenerle miedo." 18-29(cg) "Una relación de amigos. Platicar uno al otro y conocerse." 22(cg) "Como un amigo, tenerle confianza, pero también respeto." 23(cg) "Deber de poder hablar con el sinceramente y sin temor." 23(ncg) "no se." 24(cg) "una relación, abierta, una buena amistad. El debe de ser su confesor." 24(ncg) "Tratarlo como sacerdote con respeto y platicar pero siempre con respeto." 25(cg) "De amigos" 26(cg) "De confianza y contarle todo." 31(ncg) "como amigos" 32(cg) n/a32(cg) "Conocer cual es la función del sacerdote y hasta que extremo puede ayudarme a mi. Tener intimidad para conocerse mejor el uno al otro." 43(ncg) "En verdad, no se, porque nunca he sido muy religioso, pero yo creo que debe de ser una amistad con mucha confianza." 43(ncg) "Deben de poder ser amigos, amistades, un sacerdote es

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nuestro confesor. Debe de ser una relación sin conflictos
amistad con un gran respeto."
45(cg) "intimidad espiritual"
30-50(ncg) "La relación de un amigo, de mucho respeto."
30-50(cq) n/a
30-50(cg) "Respeto, cariño, acercamiento."
30-50(ncg) "Amigable."
50(cg) "Tener mucha confianza y ser amables con ellos como lo
son con uno."
50+(ncg) "de sacerdote a feligrés/creyente."
50+(cg) "Como un consejorio espiritual y amigo."
50+(cg) "Un amigo de confianza un consejo."
50+(ncg) "Un respeto."
54(cq) "Un padre debe de ser nuestro confesor, y al mismo
tiempo un amigo que no debe juzgar una amistad con confianza."
54(ncg) "una amistad."
55(ncg) "Servirlo y apoyarlo, ayudarlo."
        "Tenerle confianza para confesarse y pedirles
59 (cg)
consejos."
60(cg) "tener comunicación"
62(cg) "De verlo como un hermano en Cristo, y no tenerlo
miedo."
?(cg) "Respeto, pero al mismo tiempo confianza para poder
placticarle sus penas y alegrías."
c. ¿Se siente la gente a gusto o con temor de los padres?
¿Porque?
18--29(ncg) "Algunos con temor, porque creen que ellos solo se
acercan para regañar."
18-29(cg) "La mayoría con miedo, porque la gente misma no se
acerca a ellos."
18-29(cq) "Pienso que las dos maneras - mas a qusto otros con
temor porque piensan que los Padres son muy superiores a
ellos, o casi 'santos'."
18-29(ncg) "Con temor porque piensan que los van a regañar."
18-29(cg) "Creo que la mayoría se sienten muy a qusto. No creo
que con temor sino con mucho respeto a los sacerdotes."
22(cg) "Depende del padre. Sino dice la verdad o nos regaña
por algo, la gente siente temor, pero si nos regaña es por
nuestro bien. Si nos tratan con amistad y confianza, que puede
hablar uno con ellos de cualquier cosa y cuando lo necesita
uno - a qusto."
23(cg) "La gente mayor de edad siente temor porque en los días
de antes los padres eran la ley. Ahora todo es muy diferente.
La gente mas joven se siente a gusto."
23(ncg) "a gusto y tener respeto. Porque es padre."
24(cg) "a gusto, por que los padres son la guía hacia Dios."
24(ncg) "Ya no les tienen temor ahorita. (Ahora les importa
poco si los regañan o no)."
25(cg) "a gusto"
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26(cg) "Las 2 cosas. Temor porque hacen cosas que no les

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qustan a los padres."
31(ncq) "No les tengo temor."
32(cq) n/a
32(cq) "Sienten miedo! los que no frecuentan la confesión
porque creen que no los van a perdonar y lo van a regañar pero
es por nuestro bien."
43(ncg) "ahora no se, pero cuando yo era niño mi mamá me decía
que si me portaba mal me iba a mandar con el padre para que me
regañara y yo les tenía miedo por que a veces me jalaban las
oreias."
43(ncg) "Bueno, aquí los padres son diferentes a los de
México, yo pienso que la gente si a de estar a gusto con los
padres aquí. En México los padres son mas mandones (they tell
you what to do) y regañones."
45(cq) "no"
30-50(ncg) "A gusto porque todos son muy amables."
30-50(cg) "gusto, porque no hay razón por tener temor."
30-50(cg) "A gusto, son como un hermano mayor - se habla
ampliamente y recibe consejos."
30-50(ncg) "Mucha gente se a de sentir nerviosa porque piensan
que los Padres son perfectos."
50(cg) "no"
50+(ncg) "con temor."
50+(cg) "Con temor porque pensamos que el padre puede juzgar
nuestra vida."
50+(cg) "Las dos cosas. Depende de las personas porque piensas
que los van a regañar."
50+(ncg) "No se, yo me siento a gusto."
54(cg) "Les tienen miedo, porque regañan y mucha gente no
le gusta que los regañan."
54(ncg) "Con temor, porque mucha gente esta acostumbrada a
que los padres regañan a la gente."
55(ncg) "A gusto porque les ayudan a llevar su labor."
59(cg) "A gusto"
60(cg) "por no comprender el idioma"
62(cg) "Unos si se sienten a gusto y otros no - les tienen
miedo. Les tienen miedo porque se sienten inferior a ellos."
?(cg) "a gusto"
d. Describa el mejor sacerdote que haya conocido. ¿Porque fue
el mejor?
18-29(ncg) "No lo he conocido a un."
18-29(cg) "No tengo a uno en particular."
18-29(cg) "Padre (----) por su buen humor, su modo de ser tan
casual, su comprensión pero a la misma vez por su modo gentil
de ser estricto."
18-29 (ncg) "Ninguno"
18-29 (cg) "Padre
                     (---) y (---). Son muy
                                                  amables
comprensivos. También los otros padres."
22(cg) "Hasta ahorita no he hecho la distinción. (La mayoría
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todos los que he conocido - están entregado a Dios)."
23(cg) "Bueno, habla hispana, conocía las necesidades de la
comunidad Hispana, siempre esta dispuesto a hablar con los
parroquianos."
23(ncg) "No me acuerdo de su nombre. Porque me hacia reír. El
sabia las respuestas antes de yo preguntara y las discutía en
misa."
24(cg) "Bueno, oye los problemas, entiende, comprensible. Es
un buen amigo."
24(ncg) "Allá en México. Toda la gente lo quería."
25(cg) "Padre (-----) por su sencillez y humildad y
todas las actividades que hacia y por su amor al prójimo."
26(cg) "El padre (----). - Hacia cosas que a toda la gente le
gustaba: Kermesses, puestos adornadas. Estaba en contacto con
la gente. Consultaba a la gente, les pedía su opinión para las
cosas que iba a hacer. No parecía padre, se ponía al mismo
nivel de la gente."
31(ncq) n/a
32(cg) n/a
32(cg) "Padre (----) - entregado al pueblo por Jesucristo.
No se fija en la raza o el calor."
43(ncg) "Muy amigable, jugaba fútbol con los niños, cenaba en
casa de nosotros de vez en cuando. Siempre tomaba tiempo para
los niños de la parroquia, y nunca me regaño."
43 (ncg) "fue un padre de mayor de edad, amigo de mi madre, el
enseñaba a los muchachos (jóvenes) a hacer escapularios,
rosarios, y velas. También dirigía el coro. Cualquier
persona podía hablar con el fácilmente."
45(cg) "El Padre (----)"
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) "Ninguno. Todos son iguales."
30-50(cg) "Ninguno, todos son buenos."
30-50(ncg) "Ninguno."
50(cg) "Todos son buenos pero el que me gusta como hace las
misas es el Padre (-----)."
50+(ncg) "Ninguna"
50+(cq) "No creo."
50+(cg) "Ha visto muchos, por su espiritualidad y manera de
ayudar espiritualmente a la gente."
50+(ncg) "En México un padre que atienda muy bien a la gente,
explicaba muy bien y ayudaba mucho a la gente."
54(cg) "Joven, hablaba con mis hijos con palabras que ellos
podían entender y el les ponía atención."
54(ncg) "Nunca he tenido la oportunidad de haber conocido
a un sacerdote muy bien."
55(ncg) "Un padre que era muy amable con los niños y las
personas. Era muy simpático y trataba muy bien a la gente."
59(cg) "Padre (-----) porque nos enseñan la biblia."
       "Padre (----)"
60 (cg)
62 (cg)
        "En estados unidos el Padre (----) porque es muy
tratable con todas personas, y no discrimina contra el
Hispano.
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En México, un Padre que visitaba nuestra casa mucho, también era muy tratable con nosotros y nos tenía mucha confianza a nosotros y nosotros a el."
?(cg) "Father (----) and Padre (----) porque después del padre (-----), fueron los primero padres que trataron a todas razas igual."

e. Describa una experiencia difícil que haya tenido con un padre.

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18-29(ncg) "Ninguna"
18-29(cg) "Hasta ahora no."
18-29(cg) "Ninguna"
18-29(ncg) "Ninguna"
18-29(cg) "Ninguna."
2(cg) "Ninguna."
23 (cq)
        "Hasta hoy día nunca he tenido una experiencia
difícil."
23(ncg) "Ninguna"
24(cg) "Ninguna."
24 (ncg) "No hay"
25(cg) "Ninguna"
26(cg) "Cuando fui a platicarle acerca de mi esposo el padre
me dijo todo lo contrario que el no me creyó lo que le había
dicho. Le creyó mejor a el (mi esposo) porque ya lo conocía y
me dijo que yo no sabía lo que decía y que mi esposo era
bueno. Eso no me gustó."
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) n/a
32(cg) "Ninguna"
43(ncg) "no recuerdo ninguna."
43 (ncg) "no he tenido ninguna."
45(cq) "difícil no. pero creo que el se preocupa por los
miembros de su parroquia sin excepción de raza."
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) "Ninguna."
30-50(cg) "En México (Lombardía, Mich.), mi abuela estaba muy
grave, y el sacerdote no quiso ir a confesarla porque mi mamá
no era casada por la iglesia y ella estaba ahí. Era un padre
muy duro. (Porque mi mamá estaba amancebada) y también de
chica, un padre me dio un coscorron (me pegó en la cabeza)
porque no me puede persinar."
30-50(ncg) "Ninguna"
50(cg) "ninguna"
50+(ncg) "Ninguna"
50+(cg) "La confesión"
50+(cg) "No"
50+(ncg) "Conocí a un padre de mi pueblo que era muy amigo de
chico y se fue al seminario y era padre del pueblo y era
borracho, y me decía que le rezara a las piedras, y
le hacia burla a la gente y a las mujeres."
54(cg) "Nunca he tenido ninguna."
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54 (ncg) "nunca"
55(ncg) "Cuando estaban mis hijos chicos, mi esposo los acercó
a confesarse y el padre los retiró muy feo. Yo sentí mucha
desilusión y miedo. El padre salió a esperar a mi esposo
e intercambiaron palabras groseras."
59(cg) "Ninguna."
60(cg) "No podría decir"
62(cg) "Nunca he tenido una."
?(cq) n/a
f. ¿Que cree que la gente necesita de los sacerdotes?
18-29 (ncg) "Nada"
18-29 (cg) "Nada"
18-29(cg) "Comprensión"
18-29(ncg) "Que sean sus amigos, los entiendan."
18-29(cg) "Buenos consejos."
22(cg) "-Apoyo en las dificultades que tenga la persona.
-Amistad"
23(cg) "Comprensión, entendimiento, porque cuando la gente
llega a su País esperan que los sacerdotes sean iguales a los
de su País. Y aquí todo es muy diferente."
23 (ncg) "Apoyo"
24(cg) "Que prediquen bien la palabra de Dios."
24(ncg) "La comunión y la misa; los consejos."
25(cg) "Ayuda espiritual y apoyo moral."
26(cg) "1. Que hablen Español.
2. Que nos hagan caso cuando uno va a platicar con ellos."
31(ncg) "consejos"
32(cg) "por supuesto que si"
32(cg) "Que lo que hable el sacerdote, lo viva, que de verdad
esté unido a la gracia de Jesucristo, que la gente vea que de
verdad es hijo de Dios y que vive su sacerdocio (y no que anda
fumando y en vicios)."
43(ncg) "Que nos entiendan, nuestras creencias espirituales
son diferentes."
43(ncg) "entendimiento de nuestras creencias y nuestra fe."
45(cg) "Tener mas comunicación con la gente para que conozcan
nuestras necesidades."
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) "No se."
30-50(cg) "Que tengan paciencia para cada persona porque mucha
gente es trabajosa de comprender."
30-50(ncg) "Que de la misa, que de consejos."
50(cg) "comprensión y entendimiento"
50+(ncg) "mas comunicación."
50+(cg) "Mas confianza, mas disponibles."
50+(cg) "Tiempo y paciencia."
50+(ncg) "Confesión, apoyo, su sed de fe y sus consejos."
54(cg) "Mas tiempo, entendimiento, confianza."
54(ncg) "Que les entiendan, sus costumbres, los ayuden con
sus problemas. Que los escuchen."
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55(ncg) "Atención a la persona, que lo hagan sentir más a
gusto, especialmente en la confesión (que le expliquen a uno bien)."
59(cg) "La confesión, consejos."
60(cg) "platicas religiosas"
62(cq) "Mucho - que les de la misa, administración de todos
los sacramentos, habilidad de dar consejos."
?(cg) "atención, hacerlos sentir bien venidos, tratar de
escuchar cuando tienen un problema"
   Opiniones de los Servicios Pastorales Que la Gente
Encuentra
a. ¿Han sido sus encuentros con los sacerdotes de su parroquia
y los que trabajan para la iglesia buenos o difíciles?
18-29(ncg) n/a
18-29(cg) "Indiferentes."
18-29(cq) "Con los padres buenos - con los que trabajan para
la Iglesia de los dos maneras."
18-29(ncg) "No he tenido encuentros."
18-29(cg) "Buenos."
22(cg) "Buenos"
23(cg) "Buenos."
23 (ncg) "Buenos"
24 (cg) "Buenos"
24(ncg) "Nunca he tenido encuentros con ellos aquí."
25(cg) "un buen encuentro"
26(cg) "buenos"
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) n/a
32(cg) "Buenos"
43 (ncg) "no pertenezco a una parroquia."
43 (ncg) "Nunca he tenido ninguna dificultad."
45(cq) "difíciles"
30-50(ncg) "Buenos.
30-50(cg) "Buenos."
30-50(cg) "Buenos."
30-50 (ncg) "Buenos"
50(cg) "muy fáciles"
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "Buenos"
50+(cg) "Buenos"
50+(ncg) "buenos"
54 (cg) "Buenos."
54 (ncg) "Buenos."
55 (ncg) "buenos"
59(cg) "todos son buenos."
60(cg) "buenos"
62(cg) "buenos"
?(cg) "buenos con los sacerdotes y también con la gente que
trabaja"
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sus sacerdotes y los trabajadores parroquiales? 18-29(ncg) n/a18-29 (cg) "nada" 18-29(cg) "1. Parroquia es bonita. 2. Padres amigables y hablan español, aunque no muy bien." 18-29 (ncg) "No tengo parroquia." 18-29(cg) "Todos en junto hacen un buen ambiente para la comunidad." 22(cg) "-Que los acomodadores (ushers) acomodan bien a la gente en misa. -Cuando hacen los colectas lo hacen con orden. -El grupo Joven para Cristo." 23(cg) "Hablan Español. Siempre me atienden bien, Tienen misas en Español." 23(ncg) "no tengo opinión" 24(cg) "Buenos sacerdotes, misas flexibles/ español y inglés, celebran muy bien las fiestas (como cuaresma, navidad)." 24(ncg) "Yo no voy a la iglesia" 25(cg) "Su sencillez, su amabilidad y paciencia" "1. Me gusta la iglesia. 26 (cg) Como explican los sacerdotes. 3. Las gentes que se prestan (ayudan) para hacer las cosas ahí." 31(ncg) n/a 32(cg) n/a 32(cg) "1. Es una iglesia que está activa con sus miembros. 2. Los sacerdotes tienen mucha comunicación con las personas que están activas en la iglesia. 3. Mucha gente está bien comprometida a trabajar por Dios." 43(ncq) n/a43(ncg) "todos hablan español, son amables, y nos ayudan no solo con cosas que tienen que ver con nuestra religión, pero también con otras cosas, como con comida o problemas legales (amnesty). "El Padre (----) - la manera de hablar y hablamos la alegría [del Padre] (-----)" 30-50(ncg) "Que son muy amables y pacientes." 30-50(cg) n/a30-50(cg) "1. La celebración de la misa. 2. Los que trabajan poner mucho esfuerzo y los servicios son bien organizados. 3. Los estudios para Inglés son buenos." 30-50(ncg) "Que la directora del catecismo es muy amable y que los trabajadores de la parroquia son muy amigables." 50(cg) "1. Me gustan como dan las misas 2. También me gusta el trabajo de las ministros de la comunión y también los lectores." 50+(ncg) n/a

50+(cg) "De los sacerdotes me gusta la forma en que explican

b. ¿Me puede decir tres cosas que le gustan de su parroquia,

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el evangelios."
50+(cg) "Su amabilidad y comprensión hacia los Hispanos."
50+(ncq) "1. oír su misa, su sermón, explicaciones que dan.
Sus servicios de los trabajadores."
54(cg) "Tratan a la gente con respeto. Hablan nuestro idioma.
Nos ayudan cuando necesitamos algo (espiritual y financial)."
54(ncg) "No pertenezco a una parroquia."
55(ncg) "1. La orientación de los sacerdotes pero que fuera
más intenso, más entrega de ellos para uno.
2. Me gusta el coro y los ushers porque sirven a la
iglesia."
59(cg) "1. muy ordenados. 2. atienden a uno."
60(cg) "todo"
62(cq) "1. Que los sacerdotes explican bien y hablan español.
2. Trabajadores atienden bien a la gente cuando les pregunta
una pregunta.
3. Los del coro cantan muy bien."
?(cq) n/a
c. ¿Hay alguna cosa que le gustaría ver que los sacerdotes o
trabajadores parroquiales hicieran de manera diferente?
18-29 (ncg) n/a
18-29(cq) "No lo se."
18-29(cg) "Que los trabajadores fueran mas sensibles - los de
la oficina especialmente."
18-29(ncg) "No se."
18-29(cg) "Hasta este momento no."
22(cg) "No. Hasta ahorita no."
23(cg) "No, ahorita todo esta bien."
23(ncg) "que los músicos tengan trajes y toque música en
harmonía."
24(cg) "No, estoy a gusto con el modo que están las cosas." 24(ncg) "Que cantara mejor el coro."
25(cg) "no"
26(cg) "Que hicieran las posadas y carros alegóricos como los
hacen en México. Que hagan los carros con los "güarecitos"
(inditos)."
31(ncg) n/a
        "las actividades con los diferentes grupos
32 (cq)
existen."
32(cg) "Que los sacerdotes hicieran que la iglesia actuara de
una forma espiritual de acuerdo a los Jóvenes de ahora. Que no
sea una iglesia dormida, que atraiga a la gente con la música
de ahora. Que los sacerdotes más dinamismo."
43 (ncg) "no"
43(ncg) "no, para mi todo esta bien."
45(cq) "que tuvieron mas tiempo que compartir con los
hispanos."
30-50 (ncg) "No"
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50(cg) "No"
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30-50 (ncg) "No"
50(cg) "no porque todo lo hacen muy bien."
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "No, no se puede."
50+(cg) "La persona que dirige el coro canta muy rápido y le
quita el sentimiento a los cánticos."
50+(ncg) "No"
54 (cg) "No"
54 (ncg) "No"
55(ncg) "Que se entregaran más a su trabajo, a la gente que
sirven."
59 (cg) "no"
60(cg) "visitar hogares"
62(cg) "No, todo está perfecto."
?(cg) "no"
d. ¿Siente que los sacerdotes y trabajadores de su parroquia
lo comprenden y lo atienden?
18-29(ncg) n/a
18-29(cg) "me es indiferente."
           "Sacerdotes si, trabajadores
18-29 (cg)
                                                  veces.
                                                          Los
trabajadores:
1. Cuando llamo por teléfono a veces son bruscos y muy
curiosos - preguntan mucho (en Inglés).
2. Mire un día que el Señor que limpia adentro de la Iglesia
corría a un señor sucio y mal vestido, un 'homeless' - Que
hipócrita! pienso yo."
18-29(ncg) "n/a
18-29(cg) "Si, muy bien."
22(cg) "Si."
23(cg) "Si, muy bien."
23(ncg) "Si."
24(cg) "Si"
24 (ncg) "No sé."
25(cg) "Si."
26(cq) "Si."
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "Si."
32(cg) "Si."
43 (ncg) n/a
43(ncg) "si"
45(cg) "Si."
30-50(ncg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(ncg) "No, Si (fui una vez a la oficina de la iglesia
para obtener información para casarme por la iglesia y me
dijeron que el Padre me iba a hablar por teléfono y nunca me
hablo)."
50(cg) "Si."
50+(ncg) n/a
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50+(cg) "Si"
50+(cg) "Si"
50+(ncg) "Si"
54(cg) "Si"
54(ncq) "No se, porque no pertenezco a una parroquia."
55(ncg) "Si."
59(cg) "si"
60(cg) "Si."
62(cg) "Si."
?(cg) "Si."
e. ¿Hay alguna cosa que Ud. quisiera que los sacerdotes y
trabajadores de la parroquia supieran y comprendieran?
18-29(ncg) n/a
18-29 (cg) "No"
18-29(cg) "Si lo que ha dije."
18-29(ncg) "No."
18-29(cg) "Si, quiero que sepan que son unas personas muy
lindas."
22(cg) "-De la cultura saben porque un de los sacerdotes es
hispano.
-Me gustaría que hubiera un programa para ayudar a los
drogadictos y un programa de rehabilitación."
23(cg) "Que nosotros los hispanos, Mexicanos, les damos las
gracias por servirnos bien en nuestro idioma, ya que aquí no
es nuestro país."
23 (ncg) "no"
24(cq) "no, nada."
24 (ncg) "Nada."
25 (cg) "no"
26(cg) "Que hicieran lo que uno hace (como para posadas y 12
de Diciembre) para que uno se sintiera cómo en México). Hacer
peregrinaciones con un señor como si fuera Dios y una cruz
hacia una colina."
31(ncg) "no"
32(cg) "no"
32(cg) "Que comprendieron que estamos cumpliendo una misión
que Dios nos ha encomendado y no fijarnos en que estamos
trabajando duro para alguien. No quejarnos de nuestra misión
en el mundo."
43 (ncg) "no"
43(ncg) "por ahorita no."
45(cg) n/a
30-50(ncg) "No"
30-50(cg) "Si"
30-50(cg) "No"
30-50(ncg) "No"
50(cg) "Si, que los monaguillos no jugaran mucho en la hora de
la misa."
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "Si, forma de vida de los personas que no pueden
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comprenderse."
50+(cg) "Que el progreso de la parroquia depende mucho en el
Hispano."
50+(ncg) "No"
54(cg) "Que aunque hay veces que los padres no hablan bien el
Español siquiera tratan de hablar con nosotros lo mejor que
pueden, y la gente aprecia eso."
54 (ncg) "No"
55(ncg) "Que hubiera más explicación de las cosas, no llenan
mi corazón. Debe de haber más entrega, pedir a Dios con toda
la fuerza de su corazón (cómo los Cristianos)."
59(cg) "no, ninguna cosa."
60(cg) "culturas mexicanas."
62(cg) "no"
?(cg) n/a
f. ¿Han sido sus experiencias con los que trabajan para la
iglesia buenas o difíciles?
18-29(ncg) "Nunca he tratado con ellos."
18-29 (cg) "Nada"
18-29(cg) "Regulares."
18-29(ncg) n/a
18-29(cq) "Buenas."
22(cg) "Buenas, lo atienden a uno bien. No hay discriminación
(son hispanos y anglosajones)."
23(cg) "Muy buenos, nunca he tenido ninguna dificultad."
23 (ncg) "Buenas"
24(cg) "Buenas."
24 (ncg) "Más ó menos."
25(cg) "Una muy buena experiencia."
26(cg) "Buenas"
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "buenas"
32(cg) "He visto de todo. Buenas y difíciles."
43 (ncg) "Buenas."
43 (ncg) "Buenas"
45(cg) "Las dos cosas."
30-50(ncg) "Buenas"
30-50(cg) "Buenas."
30-50(cg) "Buenas"
30-50(ncg) "Buenas"
50(cg) "Muy buenas."
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "No he tenido experiencias."
50+(cg) "Buenas."
50+(ncg) "Buenas"
54(cg) "Buenas"
54(ncg) "Buenas"
55(ncg) "Buenas."
59(cg) "Buenas."
60(cg) "Buenas."
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62(cg) "Buenas."
?(cq) "Con unas buenas y con otras no tan buenas."
    ¿Que opiniones tiene
                              la gente
                                          de los servicios
parroquiales?
18-29 (ncg) "Ninguna"
18-29(cg) "Ninguna"
18-29(cg) "Que están bien."
18-29(ncg) "No se, tal vez que son bien."
18-29(cg) "Yo creo que son buenos."
22(cg) "No he escuchado ni una opinión negativa."
23(cg) "Nunca he oído algo malo de los servicios parroquiales,
los servicios parroquiales de San José son muy buenos."
23 (ncg) "Están buenos."
24(cg) "No les da diferencia de uno o otro."
24(ncg) "Algunos que son buenos, otros más ó menos."
25(cg) "Muy buenas opiniones."
26(cg) "A muchas no les gusta como explican los padres porque
dicen que es lo mismo siempre."
31(ncg) n/a
32(cg) "diferentes."
32(cg) "Está bien ahora. Ya tienen gente para leer, recoger el
dinero, y los ushers. Le ayudan al sacerdote y hay más orden."
43 (ncg) "Buenas"
43 (ncg) "Buenas opiniones."
45(cg) "Que hay mucha discriminación."
30-50(ncg) n/a
30-50(cg) "Unos buenos y unos malos."
30-50(cg) "Muy buenos, que en San José los Jóvenes para Cristo
es una gran bendición para los jóvenes. Otros servicios son
buenos."
30-50(ncg) "No se."
50(cg) "Que son muy buenos servidores."
50+(ncg) n/a
50+(cg) "Algunas personas no entienden las reglas y horario de
las Iglesias."
50+(cg) "Que son buenos."
50+(ncg) "Buenas opiniones."
54(cg) "Que son buenos y le ayudan mucho a la gente."
54 (ncg) "Buenas opiniones."
55(ncg) "Buenos."
59(cg) "bien."
60(cg) "Buenas."
62(cg) "Probablemente buena opinión de lo que hacen."
?(cg) "pues que poca a poco han sido viendo que San José es
una iglesia de muchas razas y no mas de Americanos."
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APPENDIX C - JOVENES PARA CRISTO STATUTES

(Transcribed from their source documents. Some spelling has been corrected. Format and grammar have been copied directly.)

CARACTERISTICAS DE JOVENES PARA CRISTO

En la comunidad de Jovenes Para Cristo queremos que toda acción pastoral y por consiguiente toda acción evangelizadora, se realice tomando muy en cuenta las características que a continuación vamos a explicar.

5.1. COMUNIONAL.

Cualquier acción evangelizadora debe tender a promover la realización del mas profundo deseo del Señor Jesús: "Que estos que creen en mi y los que han de creer por la palabra de estos sean uno como Tu Padre y Yo somos uno." (Jn 17,20)

La evangelizacion debe conducirnos a formar comunidad y nos enseña a vivir en ella. Por tanto la Evangelizacion debe llevarnos al convencimiento de que no podemos ser auténticamente cristianos si no llegamos a compartir nuestra vida; si no somos capases de ser pobres, de sentir necesidad de los demás y de compartir lo nuestro.

5.2. AUTENTICA.

Que tenga realmente todos los elementos esenciales de la Evangelización y que lleve al conocimiento y al amor del Cristo total, personal y comunitario. Que respete todos los valores genuinos del Cristianismo de la Iglesia, del pasado y del presente, y que con sentido critico, purifique la viviencia cristiana de todo lo que la deforma o falsea.

5.3. INTEGRAL.

Primero, en cuanto a su contenido: proclamar integro el mensaje del Señor: "Id, pues, enseñad a todas las gentes, bautizandolas en el nombre del Padre...ensenandoles todo cuanto yo os he mandado" (Mt 28,19-20). Segundo, en cuanto a los destinatarios: "Id y predicad el Evangelio a toda la creación" (Mc 16,15). La salvación es para todos los hombres que la acepten y para todo el hombre. El Evangelio debe darle el verdadero sentido a toda la creación; poner de manifiesto el destino del hombre y por tanto de las cosas y de las instituciones.

5.4. ENCARANDA.

La acción pastoral debe dirigirse al hombre concreto y, a partir de su realidad, buscar con el su respuesta de fe en el

presente y su proyección al futuro. Debe por tanto considerar al hombre en sus circunstancias, en su situación actual, sus expectativas personales y comunitarias, en sus necesidades y problematicas, en sus etapas de desarrollo y crecimiento y en sus anhelos legítimos de liberación. La acción pastoral deberá traducir a la mentalidad y al lenguaje de hoy y la sustancia inmutable del Evangelio.

5.5. DINAMACA.

La vida es esencialmente evolución, crecimiento y maduración, y no puede entenderse sino dentro de un proceso dinámico. Por tanto la Evangelizacion debe activar el crecimiento de la vida de fe, en el amor y en el servicio. Debe ser un proceso activador de ese dinamismo.

5.6. PERSONALIZANTE.

El evangelizador debe caracterizarse por un profundo respeto a al persona teniendo en cuenta sus circunstancias particulares: cultura, temperamento, intereses, prejuicios, sentimientos y capacidad. Aceptar sinceramente a cada persona como ella es y con esa base, propiciar su crecimiento. Así acepto Jesús a los Apóstoles. Respetando la libertad, el Evangelio siempre será una invitación y no una imposición.

5.7. LIBERADORA.

Esta palabra muchas veces mal entendida y peor aplicada es muy rica de contenido bíblico y salvifico. Aquí la entendemos en tres aspectos: a) como liberación del pecado y reconciliación con Dios; b) como liberación de estructuras de pecado (esta es la dimensión social del pecado y sus consecuencias); y c) como promoción y crecimiento de la persona humana en sentido integral. Estos tres aspectos se complementan entre si y nos dan el sentido correcto de la liberación con sus dimensiones trascendentes e histórica.

Nuestra respuesta de fe exige desde este punto de vista la conversión y reconciliación con Dios ayudados de la gracia. Exige, además, muestra soidaridad y esfuerzo para cambiar estructuras económicas, políticas, sociales, religiosas y culturales, de opresoras y destructoras de la persona humana en promotoras de su desarrollo integral, personal y comunitario. La acción pastoral deberá tener en cuenta estos aspectos para que a su vez tenga sentido liberador.

5.8. PROMOTORA.

Promover significa, en la acción pastoral, propiciar las condiciones e impulsar el crecimiento integral de las personas, tomando en cuenta sus capacidades, sus anhelos y

expectativas y su realización plena, personal y comunitaria. Debemos cultivar los talentos que el Señor nos ha dada y servir a los hermanos.

5.9. PARTICIPATIVA.

La acción pastoral y por consiguiente la evangelizacion debe realizarse en forma participativa, es decir, en forma corresponsable, coordinada y activa, de tal manera que los presbitero, religiosos y laicos, con el Obispo a la cabeza, participen en la labor evangelizadora, ya que es todo el Pueblo de Dios el que ha sido ungido por el Espíritu como participe en la función profetica de Cristo.

5.10. CORRESPONSABLE.

La acción evangelizadora no es una tarea que cada quien pueda hacer solo y por su cuenta. Esta encomendada a toda la comunidad cristiana jerarquicamente constituida. Es la acción de todo un organismo vivo en el que el crecimiento, conservación y buen funcionamiento depende de todos, pues en conjunto tenemos una tarea que cada uno debe realizar en el lugar que le toca. Ningún bautizado debe excluirse de la responsabilidad de lograr que Cristo crezca. Nadie que haya recibido debe dejar de dar.

5.11. PLANIFICADORA.

La evangelizacion debe planificarse y programarse. Los planes y programas deben ser inteligentemente elaborados y puestos en ejecucucion con perseverancia y constante evaluación de metas, medios y resultados. Esto exige objetividad, realiso y coordinacion.

CREDO JUVENIL

Jovenes Para Cristo

Preparandonos para prestar a la Iglesia una labor especifica dentro de la juventud hispana, debemos tomar conciencia, de lo que creemos como cristianos comprometidos. Solo así podremos compartir de manera efectiva entre la juventud nuestra fe.

FIELES A LA PALABRA DE DIOS

FIELES A IGLESIA FIELES A CRISTO...

Un credo es una profesión de fe y un compromiso con Dios y con nuestros hermanos del mundo cercano y lejano.

A JESÚS POR MARIA

CREEMOS que ser cristianos es situarse en una línea de fe en Dios y en Jesucristo. Y, en consecuencia, adoptar una postura de amor y servicio hacia los demás. Y deseamos que esa fe llegue a ser para nosotros fuente de esperanza y alegría permanentes.

CREEMOS que Cristo fue verdadero hombre y verdadero Dios, que nos amo sin limites y que se comprometió hasta morir en la Cruz.

CREEMOS que el proyecto de vida que nos lanza es el camino para nuestra realización personal como hombres.

CREEMOS en su presencia real entre nosotros, y que nos alienta en nuestro esfuerzo por encontrarle y amarle.

CREEMOS que existen personas que testimonian el atractivo de Cristo.

CREEMOS que una comunidad es un equipo joven de personas que tienen en común una misma fe, una misma esperanza, y un mismo amor; y no un grupo de personas que se reúnen para hablar, discutir y resolver unos problemas.

CREEMOS que todos juntos formamos una familia con todas sus consecuencias, cuyo hermano mayor es Cristo, que da sentido total a la vida.

CREEMOS que para realizarnos plenamente en el cristianismo necesitamos de una comunidad que nos apoye en nuestra fe.

CREEMOS en un cristianismo joven, o sea que evoluciona con el tiempo y no permanece estático. Que da confianza y libera de

los perjuicios y respetos humanos.

CREEMOS que el cristianismo es una vida, una realidad a la cual todo hombre esta llamado.

CREEMOS que el Reino de Dios ya ha llegado y que todos los hombres estamos invitados para hacerlo visible a los demás hombres; por esto debemos participarles nuestra fe en Jesús.

Todos participamos por ser cristianos de este "CREDO", pero es importante tomar conciencia de comunicar nuestra vivencia de Cristo Jesús a los demás y presentar a Jesús de Nazareth como quieren que lo presentemos al mundo nuestros Obispos Latinoamericanos.

"Es nuestro deber anunciar claramente, sin dejar lugar a dudas o equívocos, el misterio de la Encarnación: tanto la divinidad de Jesucristo tal como la profesa la fe de la Iglesia, como la realidad y la fuerza de su dimensión humana e histórica. Debemos presentar a Jesús de Nazareth compartiendo la vida, las esperanzas y las angustias de su pueblo y mostrar que El es el Cristo creído, proclamado y celebrado por la Iglesia."

"A Jesús de Nazareth, conciente de su misión: anunciador y realizador del reino, fundador de su Iglesia que tiene a Pedro por cabeza visible; a Jesucristo vivo presente y actuante en su Iglesia y en la Historia."

(CELAM No. 175-177)

Todo a Jesús por Maria. Todo a Maria para Jesús.

PRESENTACION

Jovenes Para Cristo se ha extendido por la Diocesis de Orange y parte de la Diocesis de Los Angeles, vemos nacer y crecer grupos de Jovenes "Para Cristo". Sin embargo, - todo este desarrollo provoca la natural crisis de crecimiento: su propia identidad y su contexto eclesial.

Por otro lado, este crecimiento tan rápido hace surgir otro problema de tipo pastoral: ¿Como atender y servir -- adecuadamente a toda esa gente hambrienta y deseosa de conocer y vivir la vida de Dios?

"Dadles vosotros de comer", dijo en una ocasión Jesús a sus discípulos frente a una multitud hambrienta que lo seguía en las soledades del desierto. Y, hoy día, vuelve a resonar la voz poderosa del Señor que ordena a los suyos: "Dadles vosotros de comer".

Ciertamente no se trata de comer por comer, sino de tomar el alimento adecuado a la madurez de cada uno y que responda a las necesidades de los signos de los tiempos. Hoy mas que nunca, urgen nuevos apóstoles que distribuyan el Pan de la Vida a los que están deseosos y hambrientos de crecer hasta la estatura de Cristo Jesús.

En todas partes de la Diocesis se vive una experiencia semejante: las necesidades de Jovenes Para Cristo están sobrepasando a los ministros y a los ministerios que actualmente los están sirviendo: quienes son los que van a administrar los tesoros del Reino? ¿De donde van a surgir?

Algunos Líderes (Coordinadores) con visión han estado trabajando desde hace tiempo en forma mas y mejores dirigentes para los Jovenes Para Cristo. Sin embargo, esta tarea se va haciendo cada vez mas urgente.

INTRODUCCION

Al hablar de Jovenes Para Cristo se encuentran distintas interpretaciones y también modos diversos de llevar a cabo lo que se entiende por Jovenes Para Cristo.

La manera mas común como se esta expresando Jovenes Para Cristo es a través de agrupaciones de personas que habiendo tenido un encuentro personal con Jesucristo (Renovación de los Sacramentos de iniciación), se reúnen a orar y a compartir la vida de fe que están llevando; así como a realizar servicios tanto dentro como fuera del grupo.

La organización y estructuración de estos jovenes varia en unos aspectos de acuerdo a sus circunstancias y es similar fundamentalmente a otros aspectos considerados básicos de toda comunidad cristiana.

Dentro de Jovenes Para Cristo hay y han ido surgiendo personas que adquieren algún tipo de responsabilidad de conducir a todo el grupo, la responsabilidad de coordinar alguna área de servicio del grupo, la responsabilidad en Jovenes Para Cristo sea de conducción o de servicio mediante actividades, se le ha ido denominando liderazgo (coordinador). Podemos decir, en un sentido amplio, que un líder (coordinador) (hombre o mujer) es alguien que tiene una responsabilidad pastoral en el grupo o comunidad de Jovenes Para Cristo.

Dada la importancia del liderazgo (coordinador) en los grupos se considera que esta responsabilidad pastoral es un punto clave para el caminar de Jovenes Para Cristo y por tanto para el caminar de Jovenes Para Cristo. El líder (coordinador) es alguien que de alguna manera (sea por realizar alguna función del grupo), conduce a los demás hacia una meta. La forma de conducir depende de su formación como líder (coordinador) y de la visión que tiene de la meta a la que quiere llegar. Es un este último sentido el que hemos denominado "pastoral" a esta clase de responsabilidad.

Tales acontecimientos nos llevan a pensar que lo que Jovenes Para Cristo esta siendo para la parroquia depende en un aspecto fundamental, de la formación de personas que desempeñan o van a desempeñar el papel tan necesario de saber descubrir lo que el Señor quiere y llevarlo a cabo en los grupos con verdadera sabiduría pastoral, siendo modelos de vida para sus hermanos.

En otras palabras, la meta del servicio del líder

(coordinador) no es otra que la meta de Jesús: dar gloria al Padre mediante la salvación del mundo. La formación del líder (coordinador) es la base para su servicio en la comunidad cristiana, pues todo el que esta bien formado será como su Maestro: Lc. 6,40.

Cada día se ve mas la necesidad de líderes laicos que puedan dar la Palabra, presidir asambleas de oración y conducir al Pueblo de Dios en un estilo de vida cristiano. Además la revaloración del papel laico en la Iglesia y la necesidad de una vida mas vigorosa y responsable del Pueblo de Dios nos imponen el deber de responder a los llamados que Dios nos esta haciendo a través de las experiencias de liderazgo (coordinador) en Jovenes Para Cristo.

Percibimos esta necesidad de la formación de líderes (coordinadores) como un llamado del Señor a la oración. La búsqueda en común a partir de la experiencia y la reflexión será la base para descubrir el camino y la prueba de que hemos respondido al llamado del Señor. El trabajo no termina ahí, sino en la concretizacion y evaluación del solidez de los medios que se ponen para responder a la necesidad de formación de líderes (coordinadores) darán la pauta de la validez de este escrito: Mira cada quien como construye: 1Cor. 3,10-14.

Jesús al concluir su predicación sobre la vida del Reino, exclamo: No todo el que me diga: Señor, Señor, entrara en el Reino de los cielos, sino el que haga la voluntad de mi Padre celestial. Muchos me darán aquel día: Señor, ¿no profetizamos en tu nombre y en tu nombre expulsamos demonios y en tu nombre hicimos muchos milagros? Y entonces les declararé: "Jamás os conocí; apartaos de mi, agetes de iniquidad". Así pues, todo el que oiga estas palabras y las ponga en practica, será como el hombre prudente fue edifico su casa sobre roca; cayo la lluvia, vinieron los torrentes, soplaron los vientos y embistieron contra aquella casa; pero ella no cayo, porque estaba cimentada sobre roca. Y todo el que oiga estas palabras mías y no las ponga en practica, será como el hombre insensato que edifico su casa sobre arena: cayo la lluvia , vinieron los torrentes, soplaron los vientos, embistieron contra aquella casa y cayo y fue grande su ruina Mt. 17,21-28.

Dado que los miembros "De La Escuela de Discipulado", Tiene que conducir a los hermanos, es necesario que tengan una visión clara de la autentica finalidad de "Jovenes Para Cristo". Dios nos esta ofreciendo su Espíritu Santo; y nos preguntamos; ¿Que frutos se están obteniendo y que frutos se pueden esperar para las personas, la parroquia y la Diocesis?

La visión que tengamos acerca del sentido de "Jovenes Para Cristo" va a condicionar el liderazgo en la escuela de Discipulado.

1. Visiones falsas o incompletas.

Podemos tener una visión falsa o incompleta de lo que Dios quiere acerca de "Jovenes Para Cristo": Las visiones incompletas no son necesariamente falsas: Simplemente no alcanzan toda la profundidad, o solo tocan algunos aspectos de una visión incompleta. Pero es necesario revisarlas y conocer sus consecuencias. Algunas visiones son:

- A. Utilizar a "Jovenes Para Cristo" para nuestros fines y nuestros intereses, aun los mas altos. Si partimos de esta visión corremos el riesgo de desvirtuar a "Jovenes Para Cristo" y de no tomarlo para lo que Dios quiere.
- B. Hacer consistir a "Jovenes Para Cristo" en reuniones y asambleas de oración de tipo devocional. Pensar en "Jovenes Para Cristo" como una manera de mejorar el culto y de animar la vida parroquial.
- C. Ver a "Jovenes Para Cristo" como un instrumento para la solución de algunos problemas sociales.
- D. Ver a "Jovenes Para Cristo" como la nueva onda, como lo que esta de moda.
- E. Ver a "Jovenes Para Cristo" como una técnica de pastoral de grupo o como el ambiente donde el Señor cambia nuestra forma de vivir y de ser moralmente mejores.

Estas visiones, si bien algunas de ellas aportan algunos elementos para comprender lo que el "Jovenes Para Cristo" no alcanzan a tocar lo central lo que Dios quiere de Jovenes Para Cristo.

2. Origen, Sentido Dimensión y Alcance de "Jovenes Para Cristo".

"Jovenes Para Cristo" tiene sus raíces (origen) en el retiro Juvenil de Iniciación Cristiano, que no es otra cosa que La Renovación de los Sacramentos de Iniciación Cristiana.

Renovar significa hacer nuevo algo que ya existía: Recobrar su fuerza y su vigor. Un árbol viejo continua retonando. Sus brotes nuevos reciben la vida en el y a la vez lo hacen recobrar lozanía.

El retiro Juvenil de Iniciación Cristiana es como un retoño - en la Iglesia no es algo nuevo en sentido estricto, Sino un reflorecimiento vital del corazón mismo de Evangelio.

"Lo que Jovenes Para Cristo" esta siendo, a través del

Retiro de Iniciación Cristiana.

- A) Una proclamación de la Palabra con poder.
- B) Una respuesta de conversión continua a Jesús, Señor y Salvador.
- C) Construcción de comunidad de personas comprometidas en la fe.
- D) Testimonio con poder de la salvación para el mundo.

El Señor nos esta animando con el poder de su Espíritu a redescubrir el significado profundo de la Evangelizacion. Por el Kerygma hemos escuchado la proclamación de la palabra con poder y experimentando la salvación de Jesús en nuestras vidas. Por medio de este anuncio Dios nos ha invitado a una conversión personal y comunitaria. Hemos vivido una renovación de los Sacramentos de Iniciación Cristiana en nuestra vida.

Es por esto que el centro de "Jovenes Para Cristo" es y será siempre, una conversión continua y la adhesión a Jesús como Señor y Salvador, que glorificado a la diestra del Padre nos comunica su Espíritu Santo.

DIMENSIÓN.

Dios nos esta llamando, a través de "Jovenes Para Cristo", a ser miembros vivos de su cuerpo y a re-encontrar la riqueza de la comunidad cristiana. En el proceso de descubrir como crecer en la vida de Jesús algunos de los medios que mas nos están ayudando son: El apoyo mutuo en nuestra vida de fe para perseverar en el compromiso con el Señor y con los hermanos: Una vida Sacramental Intensa una solida formación; la oración en Espíritu y en verdad; en compartir cada vez mas la vida y los bienes que el Señor nos ha concedido para el servicio de los demás.

"Jovenes Para Cristo" en la medida de su crecimiento en el cuerpo de Cristo, esta formado y seguirá produciendo hombres y mujeres que por sus mismas vidas den. Testimonio del poder del Espíritu Santo para la transformación del mundo y la construcción del Reino.

A todo esto nos llama el Señor cuando derrama su Espíritu en nuestros corazones. En "Jovenes Para Cristo". Estas realidades, por lo demás; están en el corazón del Evangelio y de la Iglesia: El Espíritu Santo se nos da en la Iglesia y para ella.

Dentro de este marco del alcance de "Jovenes Para Cristo" es posible comprender todos los carismas que Dios ha suscitado

abundantemente en su Iglesia.

Los Carismas. Son la demostración del poder del Espíritu Santo en orden a la construcción de su Iglesia. El Señor da los dones de oración, de enseñanza, de liderazgo, de servicio, etc. para demostrar que el construye la Iglesia y que la obra de la fe e s absolutamente suya. Pide exclusivamente que se le crea -- siendo dócil a las inspiraciones del Espíritu. No esta en nuestras manos el poner limites a estos carismas; sino el usarlos para la constricción de la Iglesia en caridad y sumisión a quienes tienen el carisma del pastoreo de la Iglesia (Obispo - Sacerdotes), o asistentes.

3. Consecuencias de esta visión de "Jovenes Para Cristo".

A. La primera consecuencia es que "Jovenes Para Cristo" no puede considerarse como una Institución nueva dentro de la Iglesia, o como uno organización que venga a suplir las deficiencias de las Instituciones existentes. No se trata de una organismo nuevo dentro de, o al lado de la Iglesia. Sin embargo, requiere una cierta organización que respete y favorezca la estructuración que Jesús ha dado a su Iglesia y que sirva a la Iglesia garantizandole la orientación y el desarrollo de la experiencia del retiro Juvenil de Iniciación Cristiana.

Por esto "Jovenes Para Cristo" necesita jovenes responsables y cierto order en el discernimiento y en el ejercicio de los carismas. Además se necesita un postor, sobre todo cuando ha evolucionado en vías de comunidad; se necesita order en las enseñanza y en los maestros; se necesita organización para los diversos servicios que, según los diversos carismas y ministerios puesta "Jovenes Para Cristo" a la parroquia:

Se requiere además, responsables, que cordinen, supervisen, orienten y encausen a "Jovenes Para Cristo" de acuerdo con el Obispo. Estos responsables constituyen el equipo de "cordinadores" que establecen un vínculo mas estrecho con el obispo. Es sabido por lo demás, que todo ministerio requiere una misión, sin la cual el trabajo que se hace es puramente humano y fuera de la Iglesia.

"Jovenes Para Cristo" ha respetado la estructura geográfica, que la Diocesis ha trazado; en cuanto los limites parroquiales, por esta razón ha existido un respeto para los grupos parroquiales ya existentes.

"Jovenes Para Cristo" cuenta, con una escuela de Discipulado la cual cuenta con diferentes ministerios, a su vez estos cuentan con un coordinador y un representante; Los ministerios están formados por jovenes que vienen de diferente puntos de la Diocesis; Cabe hacer mención que dichos elementos no estaban comprometidos con ningún grupo parroquial.

Los Coordinadores y representantes no disponen de "Jovenes Para Cristo". ni dan ordenes: Solo prestan un servicio la avenencia y aprobación de los correspondientes ministerios y respetan las caracteristicas de cada uno de los ministerios en la escuela de Discipulado de "Jovenes Para Cristo".

La Organización de jovenes para Cristo es un instrumento para servir a la Diocesis con base en la parroquia, dentro de la Iglesia y de acuerdo con los pastores.

"Jovenes Para Cristo" no debe ser usado para fines particulares, aunque sean muy loables, como aumentar el culto en la(s) parroquia(s), movilizara los laicos, resolver problemas sociales, obtener satisfacciones psicológicas, prestigio o status social. "Jovenes Para Cristo" tiene que respetar las finalidades que Dios le ha ido mostrando y que le son propias.

"Jovenes Para Cristo" no es un movimiento de asamblea(s) y grupo(s) de oración. La(s) Asamblea(s) y el (los) grupo(s) son solo medios para sus finalidades. El primer modo de relacionarnos con Dios no es la oración sino la fe. Es Sacramentalismo y el Devocionalismo a que se ha llegado en la Iglesia son consecuencia de la falta de ejercicio de la fe viva.

"Jovenes Para Cristo" no es solo mi principalmente medio para mejorar la vida moral. La vida de la Iglesia es la participación in the vida de Dios...

La salud moral es solo una consecuencia de lo mas importante en "Jovenes Para Cristo" y en la Iglesia que es el tener la vida y tenerla en abundancia.

"Jovenes Para Cristo" toma su sentido cuando se presenta como un servicio humilde a la Iglesia, realizando por pecadores que han alcanzado misericordia por la fe en Jesucristo. Este Don se obtiene dentro de la Iglesia y como un fruto de la vida misma de la Iglesia. Este Don enbellece a la Iglesia y le proporciona medios vivos que por su unión en Jesús producen mucho fruto. Quienes han alcanzado esta gracia. Se convierten en fuentes de agua viva para el bien de la Iglesia. No constituyen la Iglesia de "Jovenes Para Cristo", ni son la Super Iglesia, sino el grupo de testigos de lo que Dios hace a través del poder de su Espíritu en la vida de su Iglesia cuando se le da fe; Una fe operante "Jovenes Para Cristo se ha manifestado como una experiencia concrete de los pasos necesarios de la Evangelizacion y especialmente de la Evangelizacion de los "Jovenes Para Cristo" y "jovenes adultos

Bautizados".

"Jovenes Para Cristo es un servicio a la parroquia y a la Diocesis. Dios ha concedido abundantemente a los jovenes (seglares) y a la jerarquía a través de "Jovenes Para Cristo", proclama su palabra en el poder del Espíritu, arrancar a los hombres del poder de las tinieblas y del pecado. "Jovenes Para Cristo" nos ha permitido ver lo que significa en la practica el Senorio de Jesús en nuestras vidas, la conversión primera y sus resultados, y la experiencia de ser llenados del Espíritu Santo. Todo esto es un Don de Dios para el mundo que cristianos les toca recibir y entregar modificaciones arbitrarias. Casi todos los que formamos parte de "Jovenes Para Cristo" somos "Jovenes" que hemos sido rescatados del mundo mediante esta experiencia y creemos que es valida para jovenes de nuestro tiempo "Jovenes Para Cristo", no existe para si mismo ni se puede encerrar en un ghetto; es un Don de dios para nuestra Diocesis hoy; y los que están en "Jovenes Para cristo" han de tener presente esta responsabilidad. De aguí la importancia de que coordinadores y representantes, conozcan bien los fines de la Evangelizacion que se encuentran en "Jovenes Para Cristo", se aseguren de los pasos que deben darse para obtenerlos y testifiquen con su vida que la Salvación de Jesús es real y es para "Ahora".

"Jovenes Para Cristo" ha sido fuente de unidad; no de uniformidad que exige a todo ser y actuar de la misma manera, tampoco se trata de la unidad de un régimen autoritario. La unidad que se produce en "Jovenes Para Cristo" se da en la medida que los miembros están unidos a Jesús por una entrega total de sus vidas y en la medida que son dóciles a las mociones del Espíritu. Cuando existen estos fundamentos y esta fuente verdadera de unidad; las divergencias no se convierten en adversidades ni las diferencias de opinión en separación de los hermanos, sino que prevalece el afán de la unanimidad y del acuerdo, así como la disposición de ceder con el fin de guardar la unidad comunitaria en el Espíritu.

LA ESCUELA DE DISCIPULADO PEQUEÑA COMUNIDAD CRISTIANA.

Después de profundizar en el sentido, el alcance y las dimensiones de "Jovenes Para Cristo", vamos a reflexionar acerca de lo que es la comunidad cristiana como una realidad concrete en la que se manifiesta la vida de Dios en "Jovenes Para Cristo".

Hemos experimentado en "Jovenes Para Cristo" que cuando cierto numero de jovenes que buscan mantenerse entregados al Señor, confesándolo Señor de su vida y decididos a vivir la fe de manera concreta, normalmente reciben el don de la comunidad.

La Pequeña Comunidad Cristiana (Escuela de Discipulado) es un grupo que ha decidido hacerse familia de Cristo; que ha tomado la responsabilidad de cuidar la fe del hermano y que comunica su vida y sus experiencias de fe así como sus bienes espirituales, culturales y materiales.

La Pequeña Comunidad Cristiana (Escuela de Discipulado) es instrumento para realizar los fines y el sentido de "Jovenes Para Cristo". Estos no se logran con trabajos individuales, sino con el testimonio de la convivencia nueva en la fe. Por esto, es importante que los coordinadores y representantes, tengan un justo sentido de la necesidad de la Pequeña Comunidad Cristiana (Escuela de Discipulado). Sin ella no pueden realizar los fines de "Jovenes Para Cristo" en la parroquia y en la Diocesis; pero tampoco reducen su actividad a la construcción de su pequeña comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado).

Evidentemente la construcción de la pequeña comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado) es en si misma la obra de edificación de la Iglesia; pero la Iglesia no se puede reducir a esta pequeña comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado).

- La Escuela de Discipulado Pequeña Comunidad Cristiana.
- a. Un breve análisis de lo que no es la Escuela de Discipulado como pequeña comunidad cristiana nos puede ayudar.
- b. No es fundamentalmente un vivir juntos.
- c. No es solamente una buena organización del grupo;
- d. No es solamente la realización; de una serie de

actividades;

- e. No es solamente un ambiente donde nos llevamos bien;
- f. No es tan solo compartir cosas o vida.

Esto significa que la vida de la Pequeña Comunidad Cristiana (Escuela de Discipulado) es algo mas profundo y que contiene o expresa todos los elementos anteriores.

- a. Algunas descripciones de la Pequeña Comunidad Cristiana (Escuela de Discipulado) nos ayudaran a captar sus elementos esenciales:
- b. "La Comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado) es un ambiente donde se va haciendo efectiva la actividad de Jesucristo La Salvación del pecado y la donación del Espíritu. La Comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado) es obra del Espíritu que realiza con nuestra colaboración".
- c. "La Comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado) es un grupo de hermanos que, habiendo experimentado un encuentro personal con Jesús, deciden seguirlo sometiéndose juntos al Señor para buscar y realizar su plan de Salvación. Esta Escuela de Discipulado tiene una clara y definida relación de amor y apoyo alrededor de la persona de Jesús. En la comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado) se vive una verdadera relación familiar y no solo se realizan devociones y actividades, sino la formación y la construcción de la vida en Jesucristo. La Comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado) es fuente de poder para servir y llevar a Cristo al mundo."

"La Pequeña Comunidad Cristiana (Escuela de Discipulado) es una agrupacion estable, orgánica y fraternal de personas convertidas y centradas en Cristo y llenos de Espíritu Santo que se sienten responsables una de otras, edificándose mutuamente y compartiendo lo que son y lo que tienen y ser así testigos individual y comunitariamente del Cristo para la Salvación del mundo."

"La Comunidad Cristiana (Escuela de Discipulado) existe donde hay un grupo de personas que tienen una relación claramente definida de los unos con los otros, una relación que es de amor y apoyo mutuo basado en Jesucristo. Es un grupo que ha decidido hacerse familia de Cristo. El grupo se construye mutuamente en Cristo nuestras relaciones consisten en tomar responsabilidades los unos con los otros, nos permitimos influirnos mutuamente en nuestras vidas. Mi vida ya no es mía, son que pertenece a mis hermanos, porque así lo hemos

decidido; hemos aprendido a depender el uno del otro de una manera nueva.

NOTA PERSONAL

Antes de que yo hubiera entrado en Comunidad Cristiana nunca servía consistentemente a otros, de modo que el otro pudiera verdaderamente depended de mi y contar continuamente con mi disponibilidad. Ahora, cuando tomo decisiones acerca de mi trabajo o mi vida, tengo que pensar en el bien común de mi comunidad. Tenemos el compromiso de alabar al Señor en comunidad. Yo soy miembro de un cuerpo y tengo que hacer mi parte. Yo creo en (La Escuela de Discipulado); sin embargo veo en ella un problema; veo que muchas personas hacen las cosas de acuerdo a como ellos sienten, en vez de actuar de acuerdo a su compromiso necesitamos "Jovenes" que una sus vidas, que sean fieles al Señor y fieles los unos a los otros.

Estas descripciones pretenden explicar lo que permite a la Escuela de Discipulado - Pequeña comunidad cristiana, cualquier que sea su forma de organizarse o estructurarse. En estas definiciones se encuentran implícitos los elementos que, de acuerdo a la palabra, son fundamentales para la construcción de la Pequeña Comunidad Cristiana (Escuela de Discipulado).

Algunos elementos de la Comunidad Cristiana.

La mejor síntesis de los elementos de una comunidad la encontramos en Hechos 2,42 acudía asiduamente a la enseñanza de los apóstoles, a la comunión, a la fracción del pan y a las oraciones.

La enseñanza de los apóstoles consistía principalmente en que ellos vivían y practicaban las enseñanzas de Jesús. Necesitamos desarrollar sus relaciones al estilo que enseño Jesús: Vivir, orar, comer y trabajar juntos, todo esto dentro del amor que se recibe de Dios para darlo a los hermanos.

La enseñanza implica también alimento Doctrinal entendido ante todo como educación para el estilo de vida y no tanto como un conjunto teórico de enseñanzas. El discípulo es entendido en el Nuevo Testamento como el que sigue a Jesús, y no como alumno de una escuela.

La Comunión (<u>Kiononia</u>) consiste en poner todos los bienes en común; los bienes espirituales, los bienes culturales y los materiales. En la comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado) ponemos nuestra vida, nuestras ideas y nuestro tiempo ante los demás para permitirles que nos aconsejen, nos valoren y nos ayuden a tomar decisiones; La Comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado)

implica poner nuestra vida en común. Esta entrega expresa y refuerza la entrega de los corazones: Hechos 2,46.

Este estilo de vida rompe nuestro individualismo que nos hace semejantes al mundo; hace efectiva nuestra entrega a Jesucristo y permite a la comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado) trabajar como un cuerpo.

La multitud de los creyentes no tenía sino un solo corazón y una sola alma. Nadie llamaba suyos a sus bienes, sino que todo lo tenían en común.

Los apóstoles daban testimonio con gran poder de la Resurrección del Señor Jesús. Y gozaban de gran simpatía.

No había entre ellos ningún necesitado, porque todos los que poseían campos o casas los vendían, traían el importe de la venta, y lo ponían a los pies de los apóstoles, y se repartía a cada uno según sus necesidades: Hechos 4,33-35.

La fracción del pan o Eucaristia es la fuente y el culmen de la vida cristiana. De aquí procede la fuerza para la vida comunitaria y para nuestro trabajo en la parroquia en la Diocesis; y a esta comunión Eucaristica tiene que desembocar en nuestra vida y en nuestras actividades; La Escuela de Discipulado comunidad cristiana es comunión.

A la vez, la comunidad de (escuela de discipulado) vive de la oración en comunión y la oración en privado de sus miembros. Esta última no es una tarea Individualista, sino la tarea comunitaria de construirse para la comunidad.

El amor cristiano aun teniendo estos elementos, la vida comunitaria no se da si no se ejercita el amor derramado en nuestro corazón por el Espíritu Santo. Es el amor y el respeto mutuo lo que nos libera para amar y servir.

En la comunidad de (escuela de discipulado) deben atenderse las necesidades personales. Cuando sus miembros no reciben en cuidado y la atención que necesitan de los demás experimentan frustración y cansancio y, consiguientemente, pierden capacidad para amar y servir.

En la comunidad (escuela de discipulado) se hace posible el amor a los demás como a si mismos, porque todos hacen por los otros lo que cada uno desea recibir de los demás.

Para creer en la fe necesitamos tiempo especial para compartir abiertamente nuestra vida <u>personal</u>. También necesitamos tiempo para recibir el discernimiento de la comunidad (escuela de discipulado) acerca de las dificultades que encontramos en vivir la fe y para recibir dirección y

testimonios de respuestas en la fe de los demás.

Así se produce una comprensión mutua y mayor confianza. Pero esto requiere un tiempo aparte de nuestro trabajo y de nuestra actividades comunitarias. Un tiempo para servirnos unos a otros, para construirnos y para llegar a tener una sola alma y un solo corazón.

Estas son las formas practicas de ir experimentando el amor que el Espíritu Santo pone en nuestros corazones y de ir purificando nuestro amor humano, para que en el resida el amor que el Padre tiene al Hijo.

COORDINADOR Y REPRESENTANTE DE LA ESCUELA DE DISCIPULADO.

- 1. El Coordinador y Representantes en la Escuela de Discipulado.
- A. No es un gerente o un administrador interesado en que se hagan cosas, ni un organizador que pone a cada uno en su lugar para que se realicen ciertas actividades. Es ante todo alguien que conduce a un grupo de jovenes en la vida de fe. Su ministerio tiene que ver con la vida mas que las ocupaciones.
- B. No es un maestro académico que se preocupa ante todo por una ortodoxia académica. Del coordinador se espera que principalmente enseñe como vivir la vida cristiana en plenitud con su estilo de vida personal.
- C. No es un consejero que ayuda con dirección psicológica, sino alguien que cuida la fe del hermano hasta conducirlo a su madurez. Es alguien que sirve a un cuerpo de y no a personas aisladas.
- D. Jovenes Para Cristo y la Escuela de Discipulado. Tienen un gobierno que no es un gobierno de mayorías y representaciones, sino un servicio realizado por misión para el cual se recibe carisma, capacidad y ministerio: hombres dignos de confianza, llenos de fe y sabiduría, que tengan dominio de si mismos.
- E. No es el dueño de la comunidad. No dispone a su antojo de las personas, de sus actividades y de sus vidas. Es servidor de la fe de la comunidad. ¿Que es pues Apolo, que es Pablo? Servidores, por medio de los cuales habéis creído y cada uno según lo que el Señor le dio: 1Cor.3-5.
- F. No es el que acapara todos los carismas, sino el hombre que tienen el carisma para conducir a los demás y ayudarlos a crecer en su propio carisma.
- G. Los Coordinadores y Representantes de la escuela de discipulado no son los que hablan bien sino los que disciernen el plan de Dios para la Escuela de Discipulado en su trato con la Escritura, en su oración personal.
- H. No son los que tienen buenos planes y que dicen: Señor

ayúdame a realizar mis proyectos y luego disponen del los jovenes para realizarlos; sino el que busca el plan de Dios y le pide: "Señor, ¿como quieres que te sirvamos en la realización de tu Reino?"

BASES BIBLICAS.

- A. El centro de la pequeña comunidad de la (escuela de discipulado) es Jesús.
 ----Como fundamento: 1Cor. 3,10-16; Col. 2,24-29.
- ----Como cabeza y Señor: Ef. 5,25-32.
- ----Como cuerpo: Rom. 12,4-5; 1Cor. 12,12-31; Ef. 4,1-16; Jn. 15,1-8.
- B. La base de la relación en la pequeña comunidad es la comunión en la fe: primero con el Padre y el Hijo: 1Jn, 1,1-4 que por su Espíritu nos hace hijos: Rm. 8,14-17 y por tanto hermanos en Cristo Jesús que viven la Nueva Alianza: Amaos como. Yo os he amado: Jn. 15,12 para que el mundo crea: Jn.17,21.
- C. Esta comunión en la fe lleva a un compromiso con el Señor y con los hermanos.
- a. Comprometerse para caminar en la fe: Rom. 1,16. Para cuidar la fe de los hermanos y crecer en ella Jn. 6,28; Ef. 3,17-19.
- b. Así se realiza la Pascua en nosotros: 1Jn. 3,14: del individualismo a la comunión fraterna: Hechos 2,44-47.
- c. En este sentido la autoridad y la sumisión en la vida comunitaria depende del grado y tipo de compromiso.
- D. El Señor a través de su Espíritu, santifica y edifica a la pequeña comunidad cristiana (escuela de discipulado) para esto:
 - a. Nos Bautiza con su Espíritu;
 - b. Nos entrega y nos de vida por medio de su Espíritu;
- c. Distribuye dones, manifestaciones y ministerios para edificar su Cuerpo por medio del amor: 1Cor. 13, produciendo verdaderos frutos del Espíritu (Gal. 5,22):
- Dones ordinarios edad, sexo, estado de vida, cualidades, aptitudes, capacidades, conocimientos, bienes

Dones extraordinarios - Rom. 12, 6; Ef. 4,8 y ss.

Con los cuales va estableciendo verdaderos ministerios, actividades y operaciones: 1Cor. 12, 4-11.

- d. El mismo Espíritu a través de los Obispos coloca presbiteros (sacerdotes) para apacentar al Pueblo de Dios; 1Pedro 5,15; Hechos 20,17-35, y estos a su vez comparten su responsabilidad con el grupo de coordinadores y representantes para atender a la vida en la comunidad de (escuela de discipulado).
- I. El Coordinador y Representante son personas que ayudan a otras a realizar en cada circunstancia la vida de fe, tanto a nivel personal como a nivel comunitario. San Pablo habla de ellos como de los colaboradores de Dios, los servidores de Cristo y administradores de los ministerios de Dios: 1Cor. 3,9: 4,1: como ministros de la Nueva Alianza, del Espíritu, ministros de la justicia y de la reconciliación: 2Cor. 3,3: 3,6: ministros del Evangelio, que es una fuerza de salvación para todo lo que cree: Rom. 1,6.
- 2. Las Caracteristicas del Coordinador y Representante.

A los ancianos que están entre vosotros les exhorto yo, anciano de ellos, testigo de los sufrimientos de Cristo y participe de la gloria que esta manifestarse: Apacentad la grey de Dios que lo esta encomendada, vigilando, no forzados, sino voluntariamente. según Dios; no por mezquino afán de ganancia, sino de corazón: no tiranizando a los que os ha tocado cuidar, sino siendo modelos de la grey. Y cuando aparezca el Mayoral recibiréis la corona de gloria - que no se marchita.

De igual manera, jovenes, sed sumisos a los ancianos: revestías todos de humildad en vuestras mutuas relaciones, pues Dios resiste a los soberbios y da su gracia a los humildes: 2Pd. 5,1-5.

Apacentar significa conducir, regir, alimentar, cuidar; todo esto en el plano de la fe. Es una labor que hay que hacer voluntariamente y sin interés de obtener ganancia propia, como el aprecio y el prestigio, sino con el interés de que las ovejas estén sanas y fuertes, de que sean continuamente alcanzadas por la salvación de Jesús. El excito del pastor es la vida de fe de su rebaño. San Pedro exhorta a los pastores y los estimula para que realicen su misión llenos de confianza.

El Coordinador y Representante enfermizo se caracteriza por la debilidad y el temor, por la atención desmedida a la opinión de los otros, por permitir respuestas menos correctas, débiles y con componendas a las exigencias de Cristo y a las mociones del Espíritu. El Coordinador enfermizo no corrige como Cristo corrige.

En el otro extremo, el coordinador autoritario el la manifestación de la inseguridad del líder a su afán de adquirir prestigio, dominio y senorio; quebranta y destruye las iniciativas personales y las respuestas originales al plan de Dios y fácilmente conduce a la realización de sus propios planes.

El Coordinador y Representante han de ser modelo de vida cristiana que inviten a seguirlos. Obrad según el modelo que habéis visto en mi, decía San Pablo a sus colaboradores. Gal. 4,12. LA vida mas "un modo de vida" que una doctrina teórica; Hech. 4,20. La conducción, del coordinador, se hace a lo largo de un camino: Hech 9,2 que se recorre juntamente con aquellos a quienes se quía.

Supone por tanto que se enseña la manera practica de vencer dificultades y obstáculos, se convive la respuesta a Jesucristo, resuelven los problemas para lograr la unión y se experimenta juntos el gozo de conocer a Dios en cada circunstancia. El coordinador solo puede guiar a un grupo de jovenes en un modo cristiano de vida si el en su vida personal y comunitaria, permanece dentro del camino y lo recorren juntos con los demás.

3. Las Responsabilidades del Coordinador.

El coordinador no tiene que hacerlo todo, sino por ejemplo, ser le primero, como los pastores en los tiempos del Nuevo Testamento que caminaban al frente de sus ovejas.

Tiene responsabilidad sobre la vida del pueblo:

A. En la Evangelizacion.

El Coordinador responsabiliza de que aquellos a quienes sirve vayan realizando en su vida todos aquellos pasos que son necesarios para llegar a estar verdaderamente evangelizados: percibir el mal en su vida, convertirse, entregar la vida a Jesucristo, confesarlo Señor de su vida, creer en su poder salvador, pedir sinceramente Espíritu Santo, recibir humildemente los dones que Dios quiera concederle. En seguida toma la responsabilidad de que cada uno de aquellos a quienes sirve aprendan a dar pasos en la fe, a ser dóciles al Espíritu de Dios y a ir conociendo la acción de Dios en su vida. También tiene que cuidar sus carismas y animar a las personas a usarlos y desarrollarlos para el bien del Cuerpo.

B. En la Escuela de Discipulado.

El coordinador se responsabiliza de que en su ministerio se vayan obteniendo los elementos que dan forma a la escuela de discipulado que la hacen sana y solida. Por tanto tiene que estar atento a que los miembros del ministerio estén centrados en el Señor, a que su vida sea de amor, a que tengan un compromiso y lo estén cumpliendo. Debe cuidar que el alimento del ministerio sea adecuado, que este recibiendo la enseñanza de la Iglesia, que este viva la oración común y la oración privada, que la Eucaristia sea la fuente y el origen de la vida comunitaria y que consiguientemente éste produciendo la comunicación cristiana de bienes. El cordinador en su ministerio cuida de la vida de familia en Cristo que han de tener los miembros del ministerio en el servicio de Jovenes Para Cristo.

C. En el servicio de "Jovenes Para Cristo".

El coordinador debe cuidar con discernimiento, de que el principal servicio que "Jovenes Para Cristo" de al mundo sea un servicio de testimonio con poder de la salvación de Jesús. Las tareas que la escuela de discipulado ha de realizar sean siempre un mero instrumento a través del cual de testimonio de la salvación del Señor.

COMUNIDAD DE COORDINADORES Y REPRESENTANTES

La coordinacion en la Escuela de Discipulado ha se ejerce de una manera aislada sino comunitaria. La actuación del coordinador supone una estrecha unión con los coordinadores y representantes de los diferentes ministerios que compone la Escuela de Discipulado y también con el Pastor de la comunidad parroquial (sacerdote).

La comunidad de coordinadores y representantes es necesaria no principalmente por el trabajo que se debe realizar en la Escuela de Discipulado, sino porque los coordinadores y representantes reciben una protección y un crecimiento cuando ejercen su ministerio comunitariamente. Sobre todo porque los coordinadores y representantes guiaran mejor a la Escuela de Discipulado a vivir una vida según el Espíritu cuando ellos mismos invitan con su propia vida a vivir en comunidad.

1. La Comunidad de Coordinadores y Representantes

Desde luego no se trata de un equipo balanceado de personas que tienen diferentes carismas y que se complementan unos a otros para que le conjunto produzca los efectos deseados. Aunque esto pudiera ser muy conveniente, sin embargo no es lo que constituye la comunidad. La comunidad de coordinadores y representantes esta constituida por personas que han sido llamadas por Dios para servir a la comunidad.

La comunidad de coordinadores y representantes es un grupo de personas con el carisma de servicio y que tienen entre si una relación claramente definida de amor y de apoyo mutuo basados en Jesucristo. En este grupo de personas se responsabilizan unos por otros para que todos sean formados conforme a la imagen de Jesús.

La relación solida de unos con otros permite a todos influirse mutuamente en sus vidas. La comunidad empieza a hacerse solida cuando dejamos de considerar nuestra la propia vida, tiempo, capacidades y actividades, poniéndolos a servicio y utilidad de la comunidad. Entonces los miembros de la comunidad llegan a tener el derecho de penetrar en nuestra vida y nosotros nos encontramos en una disponibilidad complete para el servicio de los demás con Cristo Jesús.

Esto no significa que ellos dispongan de nuestra vida o que ellos la gobiernen, pero si significa que cada uno toma sus decisiones en dependencia del bien común de la comunidad.

La comunidad supone por tanto un compromiso de fidelidad a Dios y de fidelidad para con los otros. La comunidad no se funda porque haya un grupo de personas que se dan cuenta de que les convienen unirse. La comunidad no se hace por conveniencia. La necesidad de permanecer en Cristo Jesús por la fe, desarrollarse y madurar en la vida cristiana, exigen una decisión de ser fieles al Señor en la unión con los demás y ser fieles con los demás para lograr juntos la vida que Dios nos ha pedido.

El coordinador le toca discernir, junto con el representante, los servicios concretos que puede y debe prestar "Jovenes Para Cristo" su papel no esta un buscar trabajo para su ministerio sino en responder a lo que Dios quiere para la Escuela de Discipulado.

El Coordinador tiene la misión de conducir y cuidar la vida de fe de las jovenes de los ministerios. Para esta misión el Señor busca hombres y mujeres de carácter probado, estables, capases de resistir en el día de la tribulación; jovenes de visión, capases de discernir la voluntad de Dios en circunstancias concretas; con la sabiduría de Cristo, para saber como proceder, y con el poder del Espíritu Santo para realizar su obra.

4. El Liderazgo de la Jerarquía.

El Espíritu Santo ha puesto como vigilante para pastorear la Iglesia de Dios: Hecho 20,28 a nuestros Obispos. Como colaboradores necesarios y corresponsales de su misión pastoral ha puesto a lo Presbiteros, que realizan a nombre de los Obispos su misión de pastores. Por esta razón toda la Escuela de Discipulado necesita reconocer efectivamente este liderazgo de la jerarquía. Con ellos tenemos la certeza de permanecer bajo una guía autentica del Espíritu y por ello es necesario construir la unidad alrededor de ellos.

La Jerarquía tiene su propio carisma que es el de presidir, ya que participa de Cristo Cabeza para servicio de todo el Cuerpo. En el ejercicio de su propio carisma los miembros de la Jerarquía necesitan, como todos los demás miembros del Cuerpo, crecer y desarrolla el carisma con la ayuda de los demás miembros del Cuerpo. De una manera muy especial esto se hace palpable con los sacerdotes. Los laicos están llamados a ocupar su lugar en la Iglesia y a ayudar así a sus pastores a crecer en santidad y en servicio al Cuerpo.

Dada la abundancia de atenciones que tienen que presentar los sacerdotes, no será posible en muchas ocasiones contar con la asistencia y la presencia de los pastores en los actos que llevan a cabo "Jovenes Para Cristo". Pero esto no de ser un obstáculo para que Jovenes Para Cristo realice sus reuniones y se asistan mutuamente bajo la dirección general del sacerdote; ni tampoco debe ser obstáculo para que la escuela de discipulado conozca las funciones propias del sacerdote dentro de "Jovenes Para Cristo", ni para que el mismo crezca en su capacidad de pastor.

Cuando se da el caso de que los pastores se oponen a "Jovenes Para Cristo", la respuesta de la Escuela de Discipulado no será la de enfrentarlos o de tratar de convencerlos. La respuesta siempre será el dialogo, la información, la docilidad, la sumisión y la espera paciente en oración. Son los frutos de "Jovenes Para Cristo" los únicos que puedan mostrar que ellos son una obra de Dios y no de los hombres. Podemos estar ciertos de que nuestros Pastores por el don del Discernimiento que han recibido de Dios, jamás se opondrán a las obras que verdaderamente vienen de Dios.

2. Las Relaciones entre los miembros de la Comunidad de Coordinadores y Representantes.

Todos los miembros de la comunidad deben percibir que hay entre los coordinadores y representantes una relación de amor manifestada por el efecto y por el cuidado especial de los unos por los otros. Esto produce paz en el grupo. Estas relaciones de amor y de cuidado no son ni superficiales ni puramente humanas.

No se trata tanto de cuidar los estados de animo de las personas, sus sentimientos ni sus problemas psicológicos; mucho menos pueden atenderse estos problemas entre los líderes de una manera mundana, mediante consuelos vanos y alientos exteriores. El amor de los miembros del equipo debe manifestarse principalmente en el cuidado de la vida de fe del hermanos. Las situaciones concretas, las tareas a realizar y las decisiones a tomar, se dan siempre dentro de estados de animo, con determinados sentimientos y con actitudes psicológicas especiales.

Dios pide que le creamos en cada situación concreta y que respondamos a sus llamados según su voluntad; así El va modelando nuestros sentimientos, nuestra psicología y nuestros estados de animo para hacernos "sentir como Cristo Jesús" y así realizar la obra de Cristo, que es la del Padre.

El amor entre los miembros de la comunidad de coordinadores y representantes no es por tanto egoísta, ni centrado en si mismo, ni mundano, ni termina en el solo afecto; tiene mas bien como meta la de ayudar al hermano a responder positivamente a Dios en cada circunstancia de la vida. En una palabra, el amor entere los cristianos se propone cuidar la fe del hermano.

La vida de fe es una vida hecha de una cadena de situaciones concretas. En cada situación se requiere responder en fe a la voluntad de Dios. La ayuda de los demás es un acompañamiento de este caminar. Todas las personas, incluyendo los coordinadores y representantes, se encuentran a cada paso de su vida situaciones como estas: necesidad de romper las cadenas del pecado; ataduras y enfermedades espirituales que necesitan curarse; encuentros con personas ante quienes se requiere, de manera especial, reaccionar en el amor; criterios culturales y patronales de conducta que es necesario romper; concepciones y prejuicios que desfiguran la realidad; acciones difíciles y arduas que parecen ser la voluntad de Dios; necesidad de ayudar al oprimido y de luchar por la justicia; acciones que produzcan una mejor vida familiar, social, económica y política, etc. Estas circunstancias y en general todas las situaciones de la vida son ocasiones en que tenemos que descubrir la voluntad de Dios.

Para lograr esto necesitamos ponernos libres de aquello que nos gustaría o preferimos; y por tanto, necesitamos despojarnos de todos los criterios mundanos que nos impiden ver la voluntad de Dios. Una vez que hemos reconocido la voluntad de Dios necesitamos reconocer nuestra incapacidad psicológica o técnica para producir obras de salvación ¡Sin Mi, nada podéis hacer! (Jn. 15,5.) En otras palabras, Dios no busca solo ni principalmente acciones u obras bien hechas; Dios quiere de nosotros obras de salvación hechas en la fe.

Para hacer estas obras de salvaciones requiere pedir y recibir Espíritu Santo y el don necesario para cada circunstancia. Una vez que hemos orado es necesario actuar con el poder de Dios y en el nombre de Jesús. La actuación nos conducirá a conocer al Dios vivo que actúa en lo mas profundo de la vida humana y hace maravillas entre los hombres.

Hacer esto de manera continuada en cada una de las circunstancias de la vida es a lo que tiende la verdadera ayuda del hermano en la fe. Ver en otro coordinador o representante una respuesta vigorosa en la fe, en una situación, aun las mas trivial, es lo que anima a otros a vivir la fe de manera radical. La ayuda entre cristianos que se aman no puede tender a hacer fáciles las cosas difíciles sin a cobrar ánimos para realizar siempre la voluntad de Dios con amor, con vigor, con salud y con alegría.

La ayuda para que el hermano crezca en la fe requiere que estemos en la contacto con el, que podamos conocer lo mas profundamente posible las circunstancias que vive. Pero este contacto requiere además de la luz de Dios para entender sus circunstancias sin prejuicios.

La ayuda al hermano requiere mas que nada de nuestra

intercesion. Nosotros no salvamos a nadie; solo Dios produce la salvación y los hechos salvificos. La ayuda al hermano tampoco consiste en darle "recetas" para resolver un problema, sino en ayudarle a encontrar el camino que Dios tiene para el.

Acompañar al hermano a vivir la fe será ayudarle a encontrar esa voluntad de Dios, a reconocerse impotente y a pedir con fe el don del Espíritu para que pueda actuar en su situación concreta.

Consiguientemente se ve que las relaciones de los coordinadores y representantes tienen que ser un compartir la propia vida con los demás, de manera que nos dejemos ayudar, que podamos ayudar a una entrega mas profunda a Jesús. La comunidad por tanto no es principalmente actuar juntos a realizar tareas juntos, sino amarse en Jesucristo con su mismo Espíritu Santo.

Toda esta empresa de comunidad cristiana tiene sus comienzos, cuando, en la fe, tomamos la decisión de mantener una posición de verdadera apertura con los demás coordinadores y representantes. Ellos deben conocer mis problemas y preocupaciones mi vida familiar y mi situación económica, mis aspiraciones y mis dificultades, el uso de me tiempo y mis capacidades, el modo como me divierto y el modo como oro.

Cuando permitimos a los hermanos en la fe que nos ayuden a crecer en la entrega a Jesucristo y cuando tomamos muy en serio y con humildad las opiniones que en la fe nos dan los hermanos empezamos a romper con un vicio muy mundano y que nos ha afectado profundamente, el del individualismo.

Cuando decidimos romper con el individualismo empezamos a experimentar los alcances de la doctrina del Cuerpo de Cristo empezamos a entender que cosa significa actuar como cuerpo, empezamos a valorar las tribulaciones que padecemos por el Cuerpo (Col. 1,24).

3. El trabajo en la Comunidad (Escuela de Discipulado).

Una de las cosas nuevas que hay que experimentar en la vida de fe es el poder actuar como cuerpo. Todos estamos acostumbrados a actuar y ver actuar individualmente y por eso nos causa extrañeza un trabajo realizado en perfecta unidad.

Las obras de la comunidad de cristianos han de ser siempre obras de fe, es decir, obras de salvación. La comunidad como cuerpo tiene que buscar en cada circunstancia la voluntad de Dios. Por eso la comunidad de coordinadores y representantes necesita reunirse para orar; requiere amplia información y atención a los signos de los tiempos, teniendo en cuenta el pasado, el presente y el futuro; debe seguir

fielmente las directrices del Obispo y de los documentos de la Iglesia, buscar atentamente la voluntad de Dios en su Palabra, y usar en la fe de los carismas de profeta y discernimiento.

Toda la actuación del equipo es un acto comunitario de fe, y por tanto requiere de oración para pedir el don para actuar. Aunque la actividad la vaya a realizar un solo miembro de la comunidad todos los miembros se responsabilizan de esa acción y la sostienen con su oración.

Por lo tanto, la actuación de la comunidad tiene que ser hecha en unidad y humildad; todos tienen que colaborar en las acciones, pero cada uno en su lugar: el que dirige, dirigiendo: el que realiza, haciéndolo con responsabilidad y humildad: y el que intercede, orando por los demás. Todos deben apoyar y sentirse apoyados, animar y saberse animados.

La actuación de la comunidad finalmente debe ser evaluada por sus resultados. Los resultados que hay que buscar siempre serán la realización de la voluntad de Dios. Esto implicara la necesidad de la mutua corrección y de la conversión personal y comunitaria.

4. La unidad entre los Coordinadores y Representantes de la Escuela de Discipulado.

Todo lo que se ha dicho anteriormente responde al ser mismo de la Iglesia, que es el Cuerpo de Cristo. Es precisamente esta unidad profunda en el amor lo que restutuye a los hombres separados por el pecado al Plan primitivo de Dios de hacer que todo tenga a Cristo por Cabeza (Ef. 1,10) Es también esta unidad la que permite al mundo creer que el Padre ha enviando a Jesús y que el amor con que el Padre ha amado a Jesús esta en nosotros y Jesús en nosotros (Jn.16,23-26)

Es obvio, por tanto, que esta misma unidad de amor y de cuidado mutuo debe existir entre los coordinadores y representantes de las diversas comunidades de una diocesis, entre las diversos centros y con la jerarquía diocesana.

APPENDIX D - JOVENES PARA CRISTO MEETING

TRANSCRIPT - TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH OCTOBER 14, 1990 MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF JOVENES PARA CRISTO ST. JOSEPH CHURCH SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

A meeting was held by this author to ask representative members of the group their understanding the experience and history of Jovenes Para Cristo.

In attendance:

- Jose Guadalupe Palomar Baltazar (21 years old) membership: 5 months
- Roberto Neri (26) membership: 4 years
- 3. Enrique Tapia (26)
 membership: 1 1/2 years
- 4. Miguel Angel Cruz (26) membership: 2 years
- 5. Rafael Rodriguez (24) membership: 1/2 years
- 6. Armando Perez (24) membership: 1 year, 7 months
- 7. Benigno Hernandez (28)
 membership: 1 year, 7 months
- 8. Jesus Sanchez Robles (24) membership: 8 months

Questions:

JT: What is the history of the JPC? When founded?

Roberto: "The group began in 1979 in El Monte with two youth who gathered in the parish and a man asked why they didn't form a youth group. In that year, one of the persons named Carlos Ramirez, and then they gathered and began to invite other youth, to catechize them. And afterward with the help of another youth named Santos Flores they prepared themselves to do a retreat of Christian Initiation. They did the retreat and after the retreat they took the name Jovenes Para Cristo (Youth for Christ -[hereafter JPC]) this group. And from there Santos Flores in 1980 went to Anaheim, to the parish of St. Boniface and there also began to work in the parish, and the youth of El Monte gathered to do a retreat also of Christian Initiation and also called this groups JPC. And also in those years, 1980-1981, there were youth from Santa Ana who went on the retreat (Spanish is 'lived their retreat') there and these youth went to their parishes in Santa Ana to also form JPC groups.

Our group here in St. Joseph began in 1984. The first coordinator was very official and had much faith. His name is Guillermo Santa Cruz. The second was Salvador Valencia. The third was Raul Gaetan. The fourth was your servant (Roberto Neri) and the fifth is Miguel Angel Cruz."

JT: How many groups are there in the Diocese of Orange?

Roberto: "In the Diocese, when we met last month, there were 19 groups here in the Diocese."

JT: And the two that founded the group were Mexican?

Roberto: "Yes, born in Mexico."

JT: To say that they are "Youth For Christ," what ages does that apply to?

Roberto: "The ages that the JPC permits youth to go on the retreat of Christian Initiation is 17 and above."

JT: Some parishes have "Adults for Christ," "Adolescents for Christ," "Children for Christ," please explain?

Roberto: "Yes, the community of St. Boniface in Anaheim has JPC, Adolescents for Christ. Also in the community of Immaculate Heart of Mary (Santa Ana) also has JPC, Adults for Christ for those who have been married and also they began Adolescents for Christ and also Children for Christ."

JT: What is the goal of the movement? When you are presenting the movement to someone, how do you explain the goal? Why does the movement exist?

Benigno: "The goal of JPC is that other youth join the Christian community and that the JPC bring the Gospel to as many youth and the most people that they may know Jesus, so that He will be the center of our lives, the life of all youth. But the goal is this for the reasons that the youth understand that the Church itself alone can not bring the Gospel outside, to the laity and precisely for this that there are retreats so that all the youth, all the people have this interest in Jesus Christ"

JT: So that there will be ministries, really apostles of the message of Christ to all?

Benigno: "Exactly this activity."

JT: And to participate in the activity of the Church? Do others have something to add?

Jesus: "Really, I feel that the goal that we have, all who work here is to share this experience that we have lived in God, in Christ, which is to say when a youth for Christ is in front of a group what he wants to transmit more than anything is this necessity to know God because really we all have a conviction that only in God can we encounter this peace, this tranquility, and this well-being. So also it is a form of encountering a little bit of spirituality because sometimes here in the United States one leads a life that is a bit materialistic so that each of these meetings gather with this end to better one another and also so that those who have the same uneasiness will be able to share this same intimacy in God and Christ Jesus."

Enrique: "The goal more than anything, as he said, also is . . . well, as I have only a little time in the community . . . one year but he was saying that, through the meetings we have and the different ministries that we do, the different ministries that there are in the community and the meetings of these ministries and the general meetings that are made for all the persons who come to the community, which are held Wednesdays and Fridays."

Roberto: "One of the goals that we also have in JPC is that the same youth that are evangelized, integrated into our Church, evangelize other youth that they participate in this experience of the retreat to have an experience with Jesus and to have this personal conversion, this individual (conversion) to be united with Christ, united in our Catholic Church, fed by the sacraments."

Rafael: "Many of the times the community can serve giving the retreats or joining to the community people who suffer from drug addiction or whatever vice so the community helps them to leave this bad life they have."

JT: You are using the word "evangelize" or "evangelization". What does this word mean for you, for the group?

Roberto: "Yes, for those that are in the group and we have walked, we have understood the retreat, we have understood what 'to evangelize' is. For us it is that we, the youth, live the gospel of Christ, that it be in our lives."

JT: How is the group organized? First the ministries, how is it organized? What is the organization of the group?

Roberto: "The group JPC, not only in this parish but in all is coordinated in the following manner. There is a general coordinator who is responsible to take care of the community, to coordinate the other youth and then the group is divided into three ministries. One ministry is Coro, the choir,

another ministry is Pastoreo, (literal translation - tending flocks) and the third is Servicio, service. And there is also detention ministry."

Rafael: "In some other communities there are more ministries. Bible Studies, that we do not in this community."

JT: So there are three principal ministries and it is possible to add others?

Rafael: "Yes."

JT: And there are coordinators of these ministries also, right? What are there responsibilities?

Roberto: "The responsibility of each coordinator is to prepare, for example, the ministry of Pastoreo, the coordinator's responsibility is to have a program so that the members of the ministry of Pastoreo, through a program of formation that they are given, through our preparation, are able to form other youth so that these youth can serve in the retreats that we have. Equally the ministry of Coro is responsible that the others be prepared to sing and to serve in the retreat and also in the Church for the masses. And the ministry of Servicio also the coordinator has to work to form those who serve on the retreat and do the work.

JT: So if I understand well the work of the ministry of Pastoreo, the work is to help the members give the talks on the retreat and also on the Friday evenings?

Roberto: "Yes. Wednesdays is when they gather to study. JPC gathers twice a week. Wednesdays the group gathers for the ministries, each in a different room, to teach each one, or to have each ministry study. For example, Pastoreo gathers from 7:30 - 9:30 and they study the Bible, some youth come to give a talk that they might be prepared to share talks on the retreat. And Friday is the general reunion for all the members. We gather to hear a talk to grow also."

JT: And after this on Fridays?

Roberto: "Yes, the Friday program is that we gather at 7:00, we begin with songs, then prayer, then we hear a talk, and we end with other prayers and songs."

JT: And these prayers are in your own words, right?

Roberto: "Yes, they are personal prayers (oraciones) not memorized prayers (rezos)."

JT: And is there someone leading the group?

Roberto: "Yes, the Crecimiento (talk - literally means growth) on Friday, the person in charge is the general coordinator. And he is the one who invited different people to participate in the prayer every week."

JT: The retreat is a principal part in the life of the community, right? There are different retreats, those of Christian Initiation, also of Crecimiento. Could you tell me the part that the retreat has in the experience of the group JPC?

Benigno: "You want to know how a retreat is lived?"

JT: "No, what part does it have in the experience of JPC?

Enrique: "What is the main objective of the retreat?"

Benigno: "In the retreat, it is principally Jesus Christ, that we have a personal encounter with him. That we know a living Christ, resurrected Christ, that He lives! And that he changes lives. This is the objective that we have in the retreats so that the people who have known Christ but through the Gospels, through the Holy Scriptures know Him as one who can transform us, our lives, from a life . . . like I was full of vices, of sin to a life more exemplary, more worthy of a man. This is so when we convert, when one is converted one begins a new life, a life in abundance that Jesus preached in his Gospel. This is what we know in the experience that we have in the retreat."

Jesus: "The retreat, I feel, is not based in human foundations, but in Christ Jesus because, as my companion has just explained, effectively all who have lived their retreats, we who have lived our retreats agree in one thing, Christ is manifested in a living way and present and really from this day forward there are many changes that are manifested in the heart of the person, in his attitudes because, really, I consider that the retreat of Initiation, although it looks as though it as human forms and human ways really, I feel, is the moment in which God Christ Jesus calls each one of us to be really present in our lives and our hearts."

Roberto: "Another objective of the retreat is that the youth that is in sin, leave the sin and come closer to the grace of God."

JT: How is the retreat organized? There are steps, right? For the talks that the members give? What are the steps of the retreat? The talks?

Miguel Angel: "We follow a method that is called 'Go and Evangelize the baptized'. It begins with a presentation, a talk entitled 'The Love of God,' presented by the ministry of

Pastoreo. They give a Fastoreo introducing communication among all."

JT: And what are the titles of the talks?

Roberto: "What is the sequence of the talks?"

JT: "Yes"

Roberto: "The sequence of the retreat is that it begins . . . eleven talks are shared, and it begins on Friday with the first talk which is, 'The Love of God,' and the second talk is, 'Sin'. The third talk, given on Saturday, is 'The Solution is Jesus.' The fourth talk is, 'Faith and Conversion,' and after this talk on conversion a priest is invited to speak on Reconciliation, so that the person will approach reconciliation, to confess. After this talk comes a talk on the 'Lordship of Jesus' (Señoria de Jesús)."

JT: What is it called?

Roberto: "'The Lordship (Señoria) of Jesus'."

JT: What does that mean?

Roberto: "What we have to give, have to do for Jesus, our Lord, our God. The God of our lives. After this talk, another is shared, 'The Auction (La Subasta)'."

JT: La subasta means?

Enrique: "La subasta, the word means, it is used in Mexico like a sale, a sale of products, like here in the United States a 'garage-sale,' something like that. So a product is placed at a certain amount and the price rises, this amount of the price rises. But the principal objective of the talk is different. First, it is part of the conversion, part of the conversion in this . . . it is where they pretend, the person, to give a change, another change in sin, in living . . ."

JT: To offer to God?

Enrique: "Exactly."

Roberto: "Yes, and to get to a little more of what Enrique was saying, of the talk <u>La Subasta</u>, the objective also is to make the person free, how many times we have offended God, and united with the talk on the Lordship of Jesus, to make an offering of our life to Jesus, to God. After this talk, comes another phase in the retreat, and at this point we present the next phase, we present Jesus, Jesus Crucified. At this phase we also present Jesus Risen, the Risen Jesus who gives us

promises, we share the talk, 'The Promises of the Father,' and then 'The Promises for You.' And on Sunday we also share with them the talk, 'Forgiveness'.

JT: O.K., "The Promise of the Father" is what?

Roberto: "'The Promise of the Father' is where Jesus, as the talk on Jesus Risen had, where he gives us the promise that he would send the Holy Spirit."

JT: O.K., and the promises for you, for us?

Roberto: "The second talk on the promises for you, that we understand, us the youth, those Catholic, that this promise of the Holy Spirit is ours."

JT: And then?

Roberto: "There is with the talk 'Forgiveness' is a talk called 'Prayer'. In this talk, the talk on prayer, the objective is that the person, by, well the person is cooperating but through the action of God, forgiveness to the person, (the person is) freed from all of the past one has in one's life, this is the objective, and they make prayers to receive the grace of God, His Spirit. And all of this isn't only to receive, that we are going to receive the Holy Spirit, because we received him in our baptism, as is declared to all the youth, but it is a renewal, a renovation of our sacraments. This is how the promise of the Father is explained, as a renovation of our sacraments. And, after this talk which is called, 'Filled with the Holy Spirit and His Fruits'. And there the retreat ends, with the closing mass."

JT: And what part does the closing mass have in the experience of the retreat?

Roberto: "The closing mass completes all that was shared on the retreat of Christian Initiation. Because there we share, we are present with our Church, our priests and there also it is made complete when we receive the Body of Christ and really when the young person approaches communion after having meditated on, having understood, 'Who is Jesus?' for us beginning our lives again, when the sacraments are approached, communion, is when it is experienced still a presence more alive, of Jesus."

Rafael: "During the retreat, we have the <u>Santísimo</u> (Eucharist visibly present in a monstrance) present, from the time the retreat begins until it ends, during which every member serving on the retreat, we are one hour or more with Him. But the <u>Santísimo</u> should never be left alone, like it is not during Exposition every month (the practice of Perpetual

Adoration, held at St. Joseph Parish on the 6th day of each month). The Coro also has its part in each talk, it has songs that, according to the theme of the talk they are going to sing, also to create the right ambience so that those on the retreat never feel bored."

Enrique: "It is a, I think, as Rafael said, it is a very important part in the retreat that Christ be present in this way, in this way as He is present in the <u>Santísimo</u>."

JT: Why? Why is it important to have the <u>Santisimo</u> on the retreat?

Enrique: "It is important because He is more . . . He is present, He is more alive with us and He strengthens us through our prayer and we feel nearer to Him."

JT: Then every person working on the retreat has to spend time in prayer before the <u>Santísimo</u>?

Enrique: "Yes, it is necessary. It is like, like . . . to give an example. If you have a robot with batteries, this robot is moved by the batteries and can't move itself. This is one way to express it, no? For us they are not batteries, nothing like that. For us, it is what gives us the energy to follow in this, to follow in Christ. Every young person participates in this, participates every hour, every hour in the prayer and we take turns every hour, every youth serving in each of the ministries present on the retreat."

Benigno: "Every youth, every member that is participating in service during the retreat . . . we know that in the <u>Santísimo</u> Jesus is present, Christ is present. We have to be in constant communication with Him. Every hour every member takes turn praying to be a chain of prayer to be worthy always that He give us power, that He feeds us with His Spirit so that we are able, so that all emerge during the retreat of one mind in the will of Jesus, in the will of Our Lord, so that all goes well. This is the reason for prayer, why we are in constant prayer. The <u>Santísimo</u> cannot be alone because we think that our faith . . . there it is!. He is going to give us our faith, He is going to enable our faith to grow so that we will be able to serve . . . that is His will."

Rafael: "Also, before each talk every ministry gathers to pray so that the person giving the talk gives it with strength and that the persons receiving the talk receive it with strength also."

JT: And who comes on the retreat? How do the people know of the retreats?

Jose Guadalupe: "A series of invitations are given to the people, like a month prior, the invitations are given at mass, to other communities, to the members of the other communities, they are informed so that they can invite members of their friends, family, and also . . . uh . . . almost as soon as the dates of the retreat are established, members to door-to-door to invite people at home, to give them an invitation of evangelization and invite them to live their retreat. They fill out applications so that they come . . . in order to allow those giving the retreat to be able to plan for those coming."

JT: And do they go to various neighborhoods, to knock on the doors and invite the people to come?

Jose Guadalupe: "Yes, that is what they do, as I said to you, the determine the dates and then, two or three people go together to various places, inviting people they meet on the streets or going from door-to-door to invite them."

Roberto: "On this retreat, those who have not had a prior experience of a retreat participate. The majority of the youth have had no experience of a retreat."

Enrique: "The invitations, as Jose Guadalupe mentioned, are not only done door-to-door, to youth who are living what we could call a 'normal life'. Youth are invited who with problems with alcoholism, drug addiction, to principal problems there are in the city . . . "

JT: What are they?

Enrique: "As I have mentioned, drug addiction, alcoholism, those that rob, prostitution, all are invited. This is a very important part because Christ is not only present in the people living a 'normal life' but also in those who truly, I think, need Him more, there He is. It is a very important part for them."

JT: What do the drawings on the shirts that are given to the members of the group mean?

Miguel Angel: "Well, to identify me as a member of St. Joseph, of Jovenes Para Cristo. (Here, explaining the drawing on the shirt he wore to the meeting) The net signifies that we are fishermen, workers in the work of Christ, the wheat are the new persons that have left the retreat to begin their new lives. Christ, looking at a youth, is giving him help, helping him . . . "

Roberto: "Also, there is a cross on the shirt that is the cross that redeemed us. Also, we use the drawing to identify

which parish we are from. The drawings are made from the creativity of the same youth, same members."

JT: There is a shirt that really interests me. It has a cross, a dove above with rays coming down, and below, the Pope and the Virgin.

Roberto: (Holding up a folder with a like drawing, the difference being that the cross is replaced with a chalice and host.) "This, in the JPC group, about three years ago, encuentros (meetings of the communities together) began. The objective is, as so many groups have been born, the objective is that all the youth of the different communities gather and achieve a unity among many groups. This drawing is from our third encuentro. The meaning is, the dove above represents the Holy Spirit. This (chalice and host) means the body of Christ with us, the youth also and here we have the Virgin also, who is the Queen of the Youth, who walks with us also. That is why she is drawn here. And also there is the Pope, the head of the Church. He is put there also because he has often supported youth, he has said, 'You, youth are the hope of the Church.' The letters say, unity, no?."

JT: The group has ministries or services to the community, right? Detention ministry? Service to the poor? What are the principal ministries that you have?

Enrique: "The major ministries are detention, pastoreo, and coro."

Roberto: "Pastoreo is the ministry that gives the talks on the retreat."

JT: No, I am not asking how they serve the group, but what their service is outside the group?

Benigno: "There is only one service in our community, called detention. They are the ones dedicated to go to the prisoners, the jails, the hospitals to visit the sick, and every month they go to the street where they share money, clothing, jackets, food . . . chocolate, bread. Visiting the people who are homeless and, of course, all of the community goes with them sometimes. This is called detention."

Enrique: "To mention, as Benny said, the ministry of detention does not have its own funds for its activities but the funds come from all the members, the persons who form the community and those who help, who want to help the community so that the community, of course in the name of God, can go to those who have nothing. This is the principal objective. In every community the coordinator of detention ministry is in charge of what the community takes, the help they give."

Rafael: "Apart from the food and the clothing they give, they also go to the jail, to those they proclaim the gospel, give talks, speak of the Bible, help them with some examples . . . some of us write them to animate them so that they do not fall. To evangelize them is to say that God exists."

Jose Guadalupe: "Well, above all the ministry is dedicated to visit the jails and to share the Bible. There are set days for the various jails and, also, we are going to say that we don't have mass, but we do have Eucharist . . . we share the Bible and then give communion to the prisoners. We also make visits to the prisoners, we write them by letter so that, little by little, we present Jesus to them by way of the company of the evangelization as has been done since the beginning. We form friendships, helping them feel that they have a friend they can trust so that faith in Christ Jesus can begin to grow, by way of the Gospel."

Rafael: "The coro also has activities outside of the community. They go to visit the elderly, to sing a time to help them. To speak a bit with them. Also to go to the jail to sing at Mass. They also sing during Mass (at the parish)."

JT: Is it good to say that each ministry has responsibilities to the group on Fridays and Wednesdays, serves the community on the retreat and also serves outside the community?

Roberto: "And in the Church, serving the parish."

JT: O.K., and when you refer to serving the Church, really you are referring to service at the Sunday Mass?

Roberto: "Yes."

JT: What percentage of the members of the community are Mexican born? Are Mexican?

Enrique: "Ninety-eight percent."

JT: And the others are from?

Enrique: "Central and South America and some born here of Mexican parents who have lived here for many years."

Roberto: "For example, in our group of JPC here at St. Joseph, we have had people from other countries, mostly from El Salvador."

JT: I was speaking with someone from another parish who told me of a difficulty they were having in their group "Adolescents for Christ" because the way of teaching and guiding the youth is difficult for the adolescents born here when they are accustomed, because of the culture here, to different customs so that the manner of teaching and guiding is difficult for the persons born here. Do you think this is true? Do you think there are differences? Do you understand the question I am trying to ask?

Enrique: "Your question is the difference that exists between the youth that live here and are from here and those from Mexico?"

JT: Those born here

Enrique: "Yes, those born here of Hispanic parents."

JT: Yes. Those formed by this culture, not by the Mexican culture.

Enrique: "Yes. Here, I think, it is a bit more difficult for them, here in the United States because the majority . more materialism because here the parents are more occupied with work and other things . . . here they live a faster life. And this effects the youth because they don't give them a Christian education, a necessary education. They receive education through school, but Christian education, religious education (no). So these youth, because they do not have help, there is more freedom in this respect because they do not have the marks of their roots, right?, in their customs or traditions as exists, for example, in Mexico or South and Central America. It is more difficult, sometimes, for them to be educated in this relation, to be centered in Jesus, to be centered in Jesus as he can change them, as their mentality is a bit different in this aspect . . . they have more beliefs in the liberties for themselves, they return to that because they do not have sufficient roots . . . they have not been raised directly in the religion, which is why we say to them that the Catholic religion is our religion."

Jose Guadalupe: "More than anything, I think it is difficult because here is broken the chain of faith that exists in the family. Of people that come here from Mexico and that have children here, it is more difficult to raise them in the Catholic faith, to arrive at the same manner to evangelize them equally as given for Mexicans, those born in Mexico... as those born here in the United States. They are very different, the cultures, the form of living here in the United States and in Mexico. So here the chain comes to break, this chain of faith, because there is not ... how can I say it? ... There is not the family integrity in the family because here in the United States they give more liberties ... how can I say it? ... The government gives more ..."

Enrique: "It has . . . as Guadalupe said, we are not speaking

really of the government, right . . . Every county governs as is necessary. But we can help directly in the publicity, one of the principal causes is television, radio, cinema . . . the means of communication that effect, I think, eighty percent . . . and this also begins to be an underdevelopment, an impediment also for the communities and the youth in their work to evangelize them. Now as they are to a larger extent, active in other activities much less important, it is less important for them to be here, living the Catholic faith."

Miguel Angel: "The beliefs of the youth born in Mexico and those born here is that, for those from Mexico, they have more communication with their parents because the woman does not work and the father only works six days and devotes Sunday to his children. So this gives them a Christian education. And here, they are always free, they have 'baby-sitting' and they do not have love, they grow without this love and end up being rebellious and this makes them inaccessible for the things of God."

Benigno: "You are speaking of the adolescents born here, right? They encounter many difficulties for the differences between the American culture and Mexican culture (or Central American culture which is pretty much the same). difference is that here, in America, many cultures come together and they go to school, do their studies among many different ways of life. So this is what, sometimes impedes them in accepting God, accepting religion. Because they feel freer, since this place does not have this spiritual education, this religious education as in Mexico. The Mexican mothers, for example, the first thing they teach their children is how to pray . . . the Our Father. And this way of religious teaching doesn't exist here. And it is for this reason that we encounter people of 16-18 years, when they are experiencing changes . . . well, as you know Father, this is a time of many difficulties and decisions . . . and of course they arrive at things like drug addiction, as my brother said, if there is not love in the home, they look for love outside the home, and they encounter this in drug addiction and things like this. And this is our greatest difficulty."

Jesus: "Responding to the question 'Why are the majority of those who come to these communities of Mexican origin?' is because, I believe, the youth here in the United States encounter many other things that really in Mexico, because of the economic conditions, we don't have. For example, the youth here live a more materialistic life, given more to television, to the car, to the work. For us in Mexico, it is not that we have greater devotion, but that we don't have so many distractions. So that we can talk more and communicate more of these inequities precisely as we gather in groups to pray, to sing and to work in community. "

Roberto: "Referring to what Jesus said, I also feel that the roots of our faith is in the family. And here the parents do not have time to transmit to the child this faith, to share with him, walk with him, because other people take care of him, who aren't his parents, so nothing is the same. So the root here is that they don't transmit the faith because they are too busy working."

JT: The last question is, what does the group need on the retreats, or better, in the life of the community, from the priests?

Roberto: "That he walk more (be with) the community of the youth so that he knows what way they are following, the youth. I think that this is of the greatest importance, that priest walk with us because if there is not any person well prepared in the faith, this small group could loose it, leave the Christian doctrine. Therefore, something that I have seen that there is not here in the United States from the priests is that they don't relate much with the youth group, they don't join them much. In Mexico, as I was involved with a group there, the priest participates more with the youth. And another difference is that here, the young person is the leader, the one in front of the group and in Mexico the priest is the one more in front than the youth, guiding us."

JT: Which is better?

Roberto: "It has its pluses and minuses. The plus here is that the youth works more, does more but the minus is that the youth does not have adequate information because when the priest is with us, we will learn from him. He will be the teacher, we will learn more from him."

Enrique: "I want to mention also, yes, all of us, the youth of the community, go the way of the Lord. It is also important for us, as we follow, to be fed with the Word of God. It is necessary also to know, to follow learning, in order to know, us, what we are going to bring to the other youth. Also, I feel that here in the United States there is little help in the aspect of . . . there are not courses for formation, there are not necessary courses. Yes there are, but sometimes . . . huh . . . the Church has its necessities, no? So, a young person, almost all in the community work and some study. So, also it is a bit of a problem because we do not have . . . I know it costs to conduct a course . . . we do not have money enough to pay for the costs of a course. And we have other necessities apart and we see the reality of the things. So we want to participate in the courses of formation but we do not have the necessary funds to do so."

Roberto: "Adding to what Enrique said, the difference is that

the courses that they give are at the Diocese and the difference that exists for the formation of the youth in Mexico the priest comes to be with the youth to teach them there. Better to say, the youth don't go but the priest goes to them."

Miguel Angel: "We are almost always walking alone. We need assistance. Here in this area there is much drug addiction and what we can do is to contact the youth but we do not have places to meet with them."

Enrique: "More than anything else, the Church, the parish in the community were we gather . . . we are speaking of, focusing on St. Joseph, right? Yes it is necessary, I think, if the community of JPC is working with the same end and same objective as the Church, I think that also we should have more help (cooperation) with the buildings and meeting places, in things that the parish could give to us proportionate to what others receive. Also we have needs for funds and we have to take out funds (from the group) when we share the same goals, although with different necessities that present themselves within and outside of the community. In retreats, detention, all of this. And, I don't know, but the organization JPC within the community does things like a car wash, or food sales after mass, of course with the permission of the pastor and priest, which is coordinated, this gives us assistance, no."

Jesus: Speaking of the assistance that the pastors give us as youth, it is given but it is not very constant. So, what happens, we say, over all, is that when people come for the first time to the community or are interested in joining the community, when they note the absence of the priest, it is a lack of an endorsement, which is to say that if the person who wants to be one with us doesn't feel that we have a good base, that is a priest, these persons doubt if this is a Catholic group. And here in the United States, with so many Protestant Sects, so I think that in orientation and equally the best thing would be that there be a priest always with us, guiding the group, helping each one of us, giving us the greatest confidence. And to those just beginning in their walk, it is an endorsement because all will believe that we have a very good faith and very powerful in the Church. So what is needed is a greater involvement of the priests in these groups."

Jose Guadalupe: "Well, as Jesus has said, that they should spend more time, pay more attention . . . speaking now of the Diocese that the Church take more seriously this group JPC, that there be more priest participation, as he said, and that they focus more on youth preparation . . . courses and things like that for the leaders so that they can teach a good Catholic teaching to all."

Roberto: "Something that we have seen in JPC, I share as one who was a parish coordinator, we see that there has not been much support from the Diocese. In a few words, the Bishop has not recognized JPC as something incarnated in the parish. For example, the Cursillo movement has been recognized by the Diocese, endorsed by the Diocese, and JPC, and I don't know for what reasons, has not be endorsed like that, accepted."

Enrique: "And on this point that Roberto is touching upon, I feel that the communities that are formed have been . . . for the majority of the persons, Latins, it is an strong help. It is the majority of the people who belong that desire that the Church should recognize that, even if we are in the United States, that if we are the majority of the Church, we have the majority of need. So I do feel that we should be given more help."

Roberto: "Also, something important to add. When I was coordinator, the Pastor at that time was not very interested in how we received our economic help... the priest, for me, it is important that he knows all of how the group JPC is organized."

Benigno: "One thing that has not been mentioned is that the priests of this parish . . . that we, the community of JPC, have received a lot of help during the retreats. This is something that we have to be thankful for, for without this help, the retreat would not be complete."

Roberto: "We have been fortunate with the help we have received from you with confessions and the closing mass. But, as I know from speaking to other coordinators, some have problems finding priests to hear confessions during the retreat and also finding times for the closing mass because some have their retreats off of the parish property, and we have that mass in our church so that we can count on your help."

Rafael: "Another great help our parish gives us is to lend us the location, because other parishes do not do that and the groups have to pay other places. So we are very thankful that our parish lends us the location."

APPENDIX E JOVENES PARA CRISTO TERCERO ENCUENTRO DOCUMENTS





Diocese of San Bernardina Office of the Bishop

June 9, 1989

Many thanks for your letter of June 1, inviting me to your Third Encuentro Jovenes Para Cristo, to be held in Baldwin Park, August 25th through the 27th. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend this special occasion.

I wish to extend my prayers and best wishes to everyone attending this Third Encuentro and am happy that the Jovenes Para Cristo, is a part of the Diocese of San Bernardino.

With every best wishes, I am

Yours in Christ.

Most Reverend Phillip P. Straling Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

PFS/jm

1450 North "D" Street, San Bernardino, California 92405 • Telephone (714) 384-6211 • Fax (714) 884-4890



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES SAN GABRIEL REGIONAL BISHOP

3149 Sunset Hill Drive West Covina, California 91791 (818) 915-1155

14 de Junio, 1989

Mucho agradecí tu carta del primero de Junio en la cual me invitas a estar con ustedes para la celebración Eucarística el día 25 de Agosto para el tercer Encuentro de Jóvenes Para Cristo. Yo tomare mis vacaciones el mes de Agosto y por lo tanto estaré afuera de la ciudad. Lo lamento porque siempre me da mucho gusto de unirme con ustedes.

Con un recuerdo en mis oraciones, quedo,

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Juab/Arzube

Obispo, Región Pastoral de San Gabriel

ja/efb

RECONOCIMIENTOS ESPECIAL

La asociacion JPC. debe un reconocimiento especial a dos miembros de JPC. Se trata de el Padre Eduardo Oceguera y Hermana Leticia Salazar, quienes estuvieron muy activos en sus respectivas comunidades y despues Eduardo se ordeno Sacerdote y Lety religiosa.

Los dos fueron fruto de JPC y por eso sentimos un gran gozo de celebrarlos y de darles hoy un merecido reconocimiento por la respuesta que ellos supieron dar al llamado (vocacion) de Dios.

Hoy sentimos un "Santo Orgullo" por ellos, y esperamos poder decir lo mismo de otros(as) jovenes que al escuchar la voz de Dios iran respondiendo.

NOTA:

El Padre Eduardo esta trabajando en la Sierra de Chiuahua, Mexico y esta comenzando una comunidad nueva de JPC. y necesita de sus oraciones y ayuda.

La hermana Leticia esta trabajando en Costa Hesa y tambien fundo una comunidad en su Parroquia.

La comunidad de Chino, quiere agradecer primeramente a Dios nuestro Padre por sus bendiciones en este Ano de preparacion para este III ENCUETRO y en este fin de semana.

Agradecemos a cada unas de las comunidades que participaron y por habernos dado el privilelgio de organizar tan importante evento. Queremos agradecer demanera especial a nuestros hermanos:

> Carlos Ramirez Sr. Jara Jorge Ramirez

Vicente Prado Arturo Rubalcaba Jose G. Ulloa

Por haber dedicado su tiempo y su esfuerzo durente todo este ano. Para que este III ENCUENTRO lideres fuera un exito.

Agradecemos a los coferesistas y a los que desarrollaron los - talleres.

Y por ultimo a nuestro parroco el Padre Luque por su apoyo, intusiamo para que la obra del REINO, JUSTICIA PAZ Y CARIDAD no desmaye.

Gracias a cada uno de ustedes hermanos que con su presencia nos han dado su apoyo y su Amor.

Les Amamos en el Senor.

Jovenes Para Cristo de Chino, CA.

Agosto 27, 1989

Jovenes Para Cristo es una comunidad de servicio, dirigida por jovenes que se dedican a la evangelización de aquellos adultos jovenes que han sido bautizados, pero que no participan activamente en la vica de la Iglesia.

Origen

Jovenes Para Cristo comenzo en la parroquia de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe de El Monte, California. Dos jovenes que en ese entonces no participaban en ninguna actividad de la Iglesia. Se trataba de Carlos Ramirez y Benjamin Campos quienes, en el ano 1978, se convirtieron en fundadores de lo que en ese tiempo era solamente una reunion para estudiar la biblia. El grupo inicial fue creciendo y lo mismo las actividades de apostolado. Carlos y Benjamin, comenzaron a visitar a los enfermos en los hospitales, a los presos en las correccionales y a los ancianos en los asilos. Ensenaban tambien el catecismo a los ninos de la parroquia y tomaban parte en otras actividades de la parroquia.

Primer Retiro

Despues de un proceso de discernimiento y estudio (se leian todos los libros que se pensaba fueran de utilidad), se formo un nuevo ministerio dentro del grupo al que se le llamo Ministerio de Evangelizacion. Con gran entusiasmo, alimentados por el estudio y la oracion, se preparo y se llevo a cabo el primer retiro, del 3 al 5 de Abril de 1981, en el que participaron alrededor de 40 jovenes, amigos y familiares de los miembros del grupo.

En este primer retiro se pudo palpar la presencia de un Dios vivo que actuaba en los jovenes que alli se habian congregado. Todos supieron ese fin de semana que Dios queria obrar por medio de ese grupo de jovenes para llegar a quienes mas necesitados estaban de Dios y de la Iglesia.

El Nombre

Algunos meses mas tarde ese grupo parroquial tomo el nombre de "Jovenes Para Cristo." Nombre dado por Santos Plores, fundador de la 2a. comunidad de Jovenes Para Cristo en Anaheim, y quien fue el instrumento principal en la formacion de los ministerios. La comunidad entonces se propuso vivir de acuerdo a lo que dicho nombre significa, procurando cooperar con la Iglesia en la edificacion del Reino de Dios -Reino de Justicia, Paz y Caridad.

Su Pe en un Jesucristo vivo, el amor al projimo y la esperanza de construir un mundo mejor, impulsa a "Jovenes Para Cristo" a trabajar mas activamente al servicio de los jovenes. No pasa un mes sin que logre llevar a cabo por lo menos un retiro para unos 100 jovenes de la parroquia y alrededores. Los mismos jovenes que habian vivido la experiencia del retiro invitaban a otros jovenes y asi sucesivamente.

El grupo se multiplica

No paso mucho tiempo para que el ministerio que habia comenzado como parroquial se convirtiera en algo que abrazaba mas parroquias, hasta convertirse en un ministerio a nivel arquidiocesano, interdiocesano y hasta internacional.

En la actualidad, Jovenes Para Cristo tiene comunidades activas de evangelizacion en muchas diocesis del Norte y Sur de California. Tambien, otras comunidades en varios Estados de Mexico. Hay, ademas, otros grupos de jovenes, que aun sin llevar el nombre, se han inspirado en Jovenes Para Cristo.

Vale la pena observar que hasta ahora cada comunidad ha brotado de la base, o sea, de los mismos jovenes que han vivido su retiro, y es dirigida por los mismos jovenes. Cada comunidad

es independiente ademas.

El proceso es el siguiente: un grupo de jovenes ha vivido su retiro con Jovenes Para Cristo y deciden entonces iniciar una comunidad similar en su area. Consultan primero con la comunidad con la que vivieron su retiro y posteriormente con la parroquia o diocesis donde quieren iniciar la nueva comunidad. Una vez que se recibe la aprovacion, se organiza un retiro y, acto seguido, la comunidad fundadora visita regularmente la nueva comunidad para asistirla en su formacion espiritual y de grupo, hasta que se establece la comunidad local, con sus propias caracteristicas.

Al Servicio de la Iglesia

Hasta ahora Jovenes Para Cristo ha acudido a donde se les ha llamado. Ya sea para dar un tema o un retiro, ya sea para participar en alguna actividad de la Iglesia o para fundar y organizar grupos parroquiales o diocesanos.

Jovenes Para Cristo nunca ha querido ser una organizacion o movimiento aislado, sino que quiere trabajar como Iglesia. Por esta razon siempre ha estado y quiere seguir estando disponible para acudir a dondequiera que los llamen.

Jovenes Para Cristo procura tambien estar informado de los ervicios a eventos que otras organizaciones o movimientos ofrecen para enviar a personas que se puedan beneficiar con lo que esos grupos ofrecen. Al mismo tiempo estan dispuestos a trabajar en union con otros movimientos para la edificacion de la Iglesia.

Objetivos de Jovenes Para Cristo

La meta principal de Jovenes Para Cristo es evangelizar a otros jovenes hispanos por medio de una proclamacion de la palabra de Dios, hecha con poder durante un fin de semana. De esta manera se les invita a descubrir a integrarse mas solidamente a la Iglesia.

La comunidad de "Jovenes Para Cristo" tiene tambien como objetivos el formar grupos/comunidades de jovenes que anhelen vivir una vida espiritual. Apoya los diferentes movimientos, grupos, asociaciones, paroquias o diocesis dentro de la Iglesia. Forma lideres tambien para las otras comunidades Jovenes Para

Cristo y promueve el liderazgo local en las parroquias, así como para los diferentes movimientos de la iglesia.

Conclusion

En sus once anos de historia, "Jovenes Para Cristo" -por medio de las multiples comunidades ha logrado llegar a miles de jovenes gracias a los retiros. Alrededor de 30% han participado en los "Crecimientos". Muchos mas se han beneficiado gracias a la presencia y actividades de quienes han visto sus vidas renovadas por el amor de Dios en un fin de semana.

La Asociación de Jovenes Para Cristo esta actualmente trabajando en la implementación de los estatutos con la finalidad de unificar la visión y metas de todos las comunidades.

Las comunidades siguen multiplicandose con un objetivo comun: construir un mundo mejor que sea presencia anticipada del Reino de Dios.

Asociacion Jovenes Para Cristo

Periodicamente se reunen los coordinadores de varias comunidades, formando asi la "Asociación Jovenes Para Cristo" (establecida en 1984). Estas reuniones tienen la finalidad de coordinar planes, proyectos, y de establecer formalmente la vision y metas de Jovenes Para Cristo.

CONCLUSIONES DEL II ENCUENTRO DE LIDERES EN RIVERSIDE, CA.

San Bonifacio (Anaheim, CA.)

Durante el dia sabado 16 de Julio de 1989, nuestra comunidad se reunio para estudiar el manual de los Jovenes Para Cristo, como se nos habia pedido. Despues de un estudio minusioso individual, nos reuimos otra vez y empezamos a discutirlo, todos estuvimos de acuerdo en la mayoria excepto en los siguientes puntos que sugerimos se lean distinto a los que esta escrito en dicho manual: Pagina 11, II.2 y II.2 ii. Dicha sugerencia fue escrita y entregada a uno de los coordinadores generales (Vicente Prado)

Damos gracias a Dios por medio de las personas que elaboraron el manual para que el grupo de Jovenes Para Cristo de todas las comunidades tengan una base comun.

Dios los bendiga

San Jose (Santa Ana, CA.

La comunidad llego a una conclusion con respecto al documento, o las reglas o el panteamiento de Jovenes Para Cristo.

1. Que a pesar de las diferentes opiniones sugerencias y diferentes puntos de vista las diferentes comunidades, hemos aceptado este documento. Que en si mostramos lo que es la escencial de JPC. Por que sabemos por medio de este documento que estudiamos ayer y con la ayuda del Todopoderoso, vamos a lograr que JPC se edifique y cresca en el Sur de California.

Nta. Sra. de Guadalupe (Chino, CA.)

Durante el proceso de estudio del dia de ayer se estudio y analizo el manual de los JPC.

El proceso de analisis fue primeramente individual en segundo lugar por cominidad y en tercer en forma general, en la cual hubo diferentecia de opiniones en la terminologia la cual en realidad no afecta las bases principales del contexto del documento, debido a las diferencias de opiniones la decision final esta sujeta al resultado de las votacion de los coordinadores generales.

La Colonia (Stanton, CA.)

La comunidad del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus estuvimos analizado detenidamente el documento que contiene las reglas que todo Joven Para Cristo debe someterse.

Este documento nos muestra la importacia de la OBEDIENCIA, PORMACION, y APOSTOLADO que son las normas principales para la evangelizacion. Nuestra comunidad lo acepto abiertamente pues lo hemos estado viviendo sin haberlo conocido antes.

Nta. Sra. de Soledad (Coachella, CA.)

El dia de ayer se hablo sobre el documento de JPC para mirarlo y asi ver que le faltaba o le sobraba y los de Coachella pidieron explicacion en la parte de las fiestas.

Queen of Angeles (Riverside, CA.)

Sintesis del manual de JPC.

Durante el dia de ayer miramos por gracia de Dios el tal manual de JPC, miramos el concepto fundamental teorico, nuestro apstolado, miramos tambien algunos conceptos de evangelizacion, algunos aspetos apostolicos hacia dentro; miramos tambien la formacion de lideres para el apostolado, la estructura de JPC, los coordinadores generales de JPC sus caracteristicas, las nociones del Espiritu Santo, las mesa de coordinacion.

San Felipe (Pullerton, CA.)

El dia comenzo a las 7 de la manana en la capilla con alabanzas al Senor. Esto continuo co el desayuno donde tuvimos la oportunidad de compartir y conocer a mas de los asistententes al Encuntro.

Terminandose el desayuno, nos reunimos todas la comunidades para la intruducción del manual de JPC. Como esta era la primera vez que muchos de nosotros habiamos visto el manual, no dieron tiempo para leerlo a analizarlo individualmente. Despues nos juntamos por comunidad para analizar y sugerir cambios al manual.

Acabando con esto tuvimos la comida y una hora para reafirmar por comunidad los cambios deseados en el manual, y para convivir por ministerios con otras comunidades.

Nos reunieron a todas las comunidades para dar a conocer las dudas y sugerir cambios que cada comunidad tuvo. Alli todas opinamos y discutimos sobre los puntos presentados.

Se acordo que solo los coordinadores generales llevaran acabo la votación por cada comunidad para aceptación de los cambios del manual. Nos dividimos y los coordinadores se fueron a votar por los cambios finales. Los demas se reunieron para compartir la cena. Despues de la cena tuvimos un compartimiento llamado "FIESTA MEXICANA" donde las diferentes comunidades presentamos obras y cantos. Como ultima actividad fuimos a la capilla para

darle gracias a nuestro Senor por el dia que nos habia dado.

Imaculado Corazon de Maria (Santa Ana, CA.)

Presentamos, revision, reesturcturación y aceptación unamime del manual de JPC.

JPC a nivel comuntario (diocesano), llevo a cabo un estudio minucionso y general de este documento, el cual contiene las normas y bases qu regiran las comunidades.

Dicho estudio consistio en revisar, corregir, y aclarar cada uno de los puntos del contenido de este documento, especialmente los mas controversiales, mediante esto hemos adquirido una vision clara y amplia de nuestra mision en el apostolado seglar, para evangelizar a los bautizados.

CONCLUSION

Bajo un comun acuerdo despues de una larga jornada JPC unidos en un solo espiritu y solo objetivo, realizo los cambios nesesarios de este docuemto a quedado aceptado, como unico y autentico decumento (reglamento), a seguir por toda comunidad de JPC

Se agradece en nombre de nuestra comunidad I.C.M. la redaccion de este documento, a todas las personas inspiradas por Espiritu Santo y que de algun modo pariciparon en la elaboracion de este documento tan insdipensable dentro del caminar de JPC.

PROGRAMA

VIERNES

7:00 P.M.

REGISTRACION

-Inscripciones (Sara Alferez)
-Recepcion (Bertha Rodriguez)

8:00 P.M.

CELEBRACION DE APERTURA

Oracion (Bertha Rodriguez)
Presentacion de Comunidades (Manuel Quinones)
Bienvenida:

-Jose G. Ulloa
-P. Peter Nugeant
(Parroco, Baldwin Park, CA.)

Introduccion (Carlos Ramirez)

9:00 P.M. TEMA:

"JOVENES PARA CRISTO, FUERZA TRANFORMADORA EN EL MUNDO DE HOY" - Padre Guillermo Bonner, Doctor en teologia, Misionero de la congregacion del Divino Verbo por 13 anos, consejero de su congregacion, y tambien fue Director Espiritual de JPC - Queen of Angels, Riverside, CA. y redactor del documento provicional (estatutos de JPC). Actualmente da su servicio como Parroco en la Parroquia de San Malaquias (Los Angeles, CA).

10:30 P.M.

Avisos (Jose Ulloa) Oracion (Vicente Prado)

SABADO

8:00 A.M. Ambiente (Jose Arturo Ruvalcaba)
Oracion (Nta. Sra. Lourdes-Santa Ana, CA.)

9:00 A.M.

Convivencia por Ministerios (Martin Sandoval)

10:00 A.M. TALLERES:

Ol Taller para Sacerdotes (Carlos Ramirez) - B.A. Social Work CSULA, experiencia de 10 anos en la
Evangelizacion, cofundador de Jovenes
para Cristo, ex-representante de los
Hispanos de Estados Unidos de la
Asociacion Nacional de Jovenes Adultos
(NCYAMA).

NOTA: ESTE TALLER SE PRESENTARA EL DOMINGO A LA 1:00 P.M. (SOLAMENTE)

- 02 Vision Del Lider Joven Para Cristo -Carlos Ramirez
- 03 Diferentes Maneras De Evangelizar - Roy Vasquez
- 04 Madurez en JPC Y Relaciones Humanas -Padre Bernardo Becerra
- 05 Noviazgo en Jovenes Para Cristo -Sergio y Arcelia Islas
- 06 Vocacion a la vida religiosa -Padre Eduardo Oceguera
- 07 Deveres y derechos del seglar -Piedad Mendoza

12:00 P.M.

COMIDA

1:00 P.M. TEMA:

Bernardo Becerra - Promotor Biblico
Diocesano (Tepic Nayarit), Coordinador
Regional de la zona Pastoral de occidente
(9 Diocesis en Mexico), miembro del
equipo regional para el estudio de la
sectas protestantes. Director de la
escuela de formacion en la fe, para
laicos de la diocisis de Tepic, Nayarit
Mexico. Miembro del departamento
episcopal de pastoral biblica de Mexico.
Fundador de Jovenes Para Cristo, en
Tepic, Nayarit Mexico.

2:00 P.H. Talleres: 08 La vocacion en Jovenes Para Cristo -Jose G. Ulloa, Fue uno de los primeros coorinadores (ministerio) en los comienzosos de Jovenes Para Cristo en Anaheim, CA. (1980) despues de hacer su retiro con la misma comunidad en Diciembre 1984 enpeso una nueva comunidad en la ciudad de Chino, CA. parroquia de Mta. Sra. de Guadalupe la experiencia 9 anos en la evanglizacion y formacion de grupos hoy actualmente da su servicion tiempo completo bajo la direccion del Vicario para los hispanos (P. Luque) en el vicariato de Ontario, CA. y la ciudad de Corona, CA.

- 09 Maria en la comunidad de Jovenes Para Cristo -Matias Valle
- 10 Puturo de Jovenes Para Cristo y Formas organizadas de evangelizacion -Vicente Prado y Moises Ponce
- 11 Diversidad de ministerios un cuerpo Jovenes para Cristo- Ena. Leticia Salazar
- 12 Formacion del Joven Para Cristo -Jorge Ramirez
- 13 Los Jovenes Para Cristo en las circunstacias actuales y Jovenes Para Cristo, Apostol de joven -Gorgorio Martinez
- 14 Los Jovenes Para Cristo dentro del Natrimonio- Sergio y Arcelia Islas

4:00 P.M. TERA: "LA ESPIRITUALIDAD DEL JOVEN PARA CRISTO" Bna. Leticia Salazar O.D.R. Religiosa de de la Compania de Maria. Actualmente coordinadora de la pastoral hispana, en la parroquia de San Juaquin en Costa Mesa, CA. (Diocisis de orange). La hermana primer Leticia Salazar vivio su experiencia evangelizadora, en un retiro intesivo de evangelización fundamental; en la comunidad de Jovenes Para Cristo. fue coordinadora (General) de escuela de discipulado (J.P.C.) en la la parroquia de San Bonifacio en Anaheim, CA.

Talleres: 02 Vision del lider Jovenes Para Cristo 5:00 P.M.

> 03 Madurez en Jovenes Para Cristo y relaciones humanas

04 Noviazgo en Jovenes Para Cristo

05 Vocacion a la vida religiosa

06 Deveres y derechos del seglar

7:00 P.M. CERA

Revision del documento de Jovenes Para 8:00 P.M.

Cristo (practico)

10:00 P.M. Oracion de la Noche (Los Angeles)

DORIGO

8:00 A.M. Amiente (Arturo Rubalcaba) Oracion (Nta. Sra. de Louders)

Documento continua..... 9:00 A.M.

11:00 A.M. TEMA:

"Maria ejemplo perfecto del Joven Para Cristo" Padre Juaquin Hereu, SCHp. Padre Juaqin H. ejercion su ministerio sacerdotal en la isla de Cuba, y actualmente es vicario de su orden aqui California ademas es vocacional y hasido incalsabel en su Amor por la vocaciones religiosas sacerdotales, gracias a el y su manera de vivir su sacedorcio la *Casa de formacion Calasancia" se encuentra hoy llena de cantos juveniles que brotan de candidatos

al sacedocio. Pue miembro de consejo espiritual de Jovenes Para Cristo en la Arq. de Los

Angeles, CA.

12:00 P.M. COMIDA

1:00 P.M. Talleres: 08 La vocacion en Joyenes Para Cristo

- 09 Maria en la comunidad de Jovenes Para Cristo
- 10 Puturo de Jovenes Para Cristo y formas organizadas de evangelización
- 11 Diversidad de ministerio un cuerpo Jovenes Para Cristo
- 12 Formacion del Jovenes Para Cristo
- 13 Los Jovenes Para Cristo en las circuantacia actuales y Jovenes Para Cristo
- 14 Los Jovenes Para Cristo dentro del matrimonio
- 15. Taller para sacerdotes

3:00 P.M. CELEBRACION EDCARISTICA

Celebrante Principal

Padre Pedro Luque de la diocisis de San Bernardino, CA. El Padre Luque fue ordenado en Marzo 17, 1963 y fue nombrado vicario episcopal para los hispanos por su santidad el papa en la misma diocisis de San Bernardino. Acualmente esta ejerciendo su minsterio como Vicario y a la vez como parroco de Nta. Sra. de Guadalupe en Chino, CA.

Co-celebrate

Padre Bernardo Becerra de la diocisis de Tepic, Nayarit Mexico.

Co-celebrate

Padre Eduardo Oceguera de la diocisis de Chihuahua, Mexico.

Comentador

Angel Aguilar

Primera Letura

Isaias 66,18-21 (Los Angeles)

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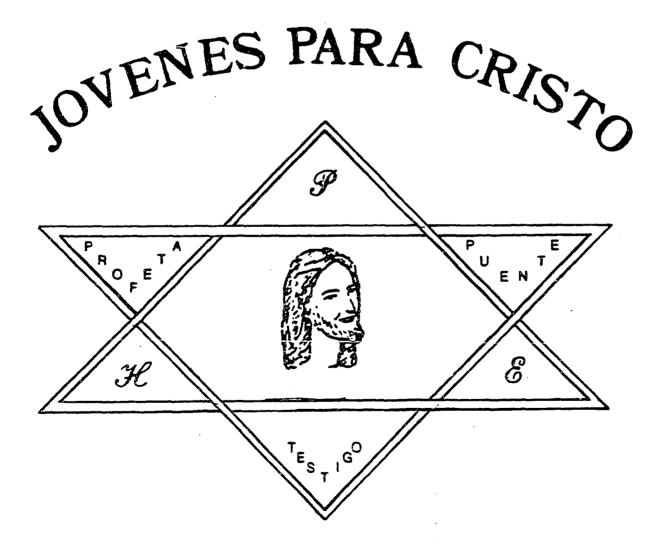
Sergio Acevedo

Segunda Letura

Hebreos 12,5-7. 11-13 Matias Valle

Evangelio

Lucas 13, 22-30 Padre Bernardo Becerra



Agosto 22, 1989

Queridos jovenes:

por la presente carta les doy la bienvenida al III Encuentro de Líderes de Jóvenes para Cristo, al mismo tiempo que los felicito por la labor que vienen realizando en el área de Evangelización.

Agradezco también que este año la responsabilidad de la organización haya recaído en los Jóvenes para Cristo de Chino, quienes de este modo tienen la oportunidad de crecer más en su ministerio de servicio.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para animarlos a continuar en los caminos del Señor, sin desanimarse, buscando siempre que llevar la Buena Nueva del Amor y del Perdón a todos.

Con cariño en el Señor:

Very Rev. Peter Luque, Pastor Episcopal Vicar for Hispanic Affairs

El agua que yo te daré se hará en ti manantial de agua, que brotará para vida eterna. (Juan 4/14)

Queridos Hermanos:

En el nombre del Señor Jesucristo, la comunidad de Jovenes para Cristo, les da una cordial Bienvenida a este Tercer Encuentro de Lideres. Motivo que nos es de gran alegria, por la oportunidad que Dios nos ha Brindado.

El de estar todos reunidos en un mismo espiritu para agradecer y compartir las lendiciones recibidas atravez del tiempo recorrido.

Pero mas que todo, agradecer y compartir la dicha de que cada dia mas, nuestro Padre Dios realice su promesa de unificar a su puello elegido.

Bienvenidos Hermanos Todos Y Que Nos Gozemos En El Señor Durante Este Encuentro...

JOVENES PARA CRISTO
COMUNIDAD DE CHINO

Agosto 25, 1989

Queridos Hernanos:

Es de grand gozo y alegria reconcer la valiosisima presencia de cada uno de ustedes y sus comunidades a este III ENCUENTRO DE LIDERES Jovenes Para Cristo; el cual es fruto del proceso de unificacion de nuestras comunidades. Hoy con tu presencia haces posible — lo que un dia fue un sueno hoy se convierte en realidad. Sin duda alguna es Jesus Sacramentado quien no une y nos inspira a contiunar esta labor, con Maria nuestra Madre quien nos reune como hijos al banquete del Padre, y movidos por el Espiritu Santo, hagamos posibles que nuestra comunidades no permanezcan aisladas e incomunicadadas, sino por lo contrario uninos como autentica familia que somos.

JUNTOS PODEMOS CAMINAR

La Asociación de Jovenes Para Cristo

APPENDIX F JOVENES PARA CRISTO RETREAT SCHEDULE

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

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VIERNES--Llegada-/Registro.

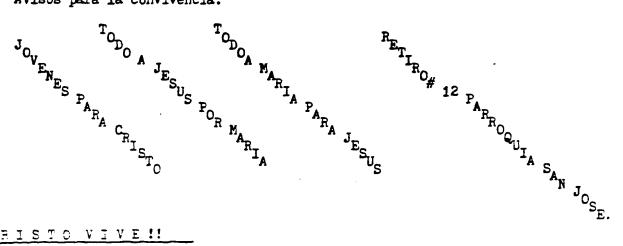
Arreglo salon parroquial, dormitorios, santisimo.

5:00

```
Inscripciones M. de Resepcion. (Recojer relojes y depositar en sobres.)
 5:30
 7:00
         Ambientacion.
 7:30
         Bienvenida, (por el padre Jef.)
 8:00
         Presentacion, Introduccion, (tiempo 20 minutos por P. 20 m por I.)
         Reglas Para el Retiro, Entrejar Tarjeta Amigo s. Equipos de Pastoreo.
 8:40
         Presentacion de todos los Ministerios que les serviremos.
 9:00
                         (acomodar el comedor para la cena.)
         Rompe Hielos.
 9:15
                 (Pasar al comedor con sus pastores.)
 9:30
         Cena.
 10:15
         Ambientacion.
                          (coro)
 10:30
                EL AMOR DE DIOS.
                                     (Tiempo 45min.)
         Tema
         Pastoreo.
 11:15
         Avisos para obejitas, Oracion Final-a Dormir.
 11:30
         Evaluacion E de D. Avisos, Oracion Final.
 11:45
                       SABADO
 6:00
         Levantarse E de D.
                               (aseo personal)
         Mananitas, para los aspirantes,
 6:30
                                              (aseo personal)
 6:45 .
         Oracion E de D.
 7:00
         cafe y donas.
         Ambientacion, Oracion de la Manana.
                                              (al aire libre)
 7:15
         Ambientacion salon Parroquial. (coro)
 7:30
                                                       decirles que escriban sus Pecados.
 7:45
              El PECADO (Tiempo 45 minutos)
         Tema
 8:30
                      (acomodar comedor para el desayuno)
         Pastoreo.
                     ( Pasar con sus pastores.)
. 8: 50
         Desayuno.
                                               (Tiendita) 10 min abierta.
 9:50
                           (tiempo 10 min)
         Aseo personal.
 10:00
         Ambientacion. s. p. coro.
              LA SOLUCION ES JESUS. (Tiempo 45 min.)
         Tema.
 10:15
                                                                       y recordar que E P.
                      por 20 min. y despues 10 min tiendita.
 11:00
         Pastoreo.
 11#30
         Ambientacion
                       coro.
                FE Y CONBERCION.
 11:45
                                       TIEMPO ora y media.12 hrs.
         Tema.
 1:15
         pastoreo u tiempo libre para meditar.
 1:30
                                 P JEF.
                                            Tiempo 30 min. (y pasan a confesarse)
         Tema RECONCILIACION.
         Tiempo para Tiendita, o se puede pastorear, (arreglar comedor para comida.)
(2:00)
 2:30
         Comida. entrar con sus pastores.
 3:15
         Aseo personal.
 3:30
         Ambientacion, coro s p .
 3:45
         Tema
                SENORIO DE JESUS.
                                         Tiempo 45 min.
 4:30
                                         Tiempo 45 min.
                Subasta
         Tema
 5:15
         Salen a meditar o (se puede pastorear si se nesesita.)
 5:30
         Tiempo libre para realizar guegos. (Tiendita abierta)
         Tiempo para preparar sociodramas en union con sus pastores. 10 min por presentacion
 6:30
         Servicio y cosina deberan estar preparando la Cena del Sr.
         Pasan al comedor para la cena (en filas formados con su Pastor.)
 7:30
         Presentacion de Obras, Pastor con obejitas, (tiempo 10 min por presentacion)
 8:30
         Cracion final por uno de los candidatos, (abisos)
 9:45
 10:00
         A dormir, (obejitas)
 10:15
         Fvaluacion E de D.
                              Avisos y oracion final.
         A dormir.
 10:30
 727 Minter Street
                                   Santa Ana, CA 92701
                                                                        (714) 542-4411
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DOMINGO.

6:30 (aseo personal) Levantarse E de D. Levantar los aspirantes. 7:00 Oración E de D. 7:15 Cafe con pan. 7:30 (Servicio areglar comede Ambientacion, y Oracion de la manana. al aire libre. 8:00 Desayuno. (con su pastor formados pasar al comedor.) 9:00 (Servicio preparar para el tema el salon.) Aseo personal. 9:15 Ambientacion, coro. 9:30 Tema LA PROMESA DEL PADRE. tiempo 45 min. 10:15 Pastoreo. 10:35 pasar al salon Mini Tema LA PROMESA ES PARA TI. tiempo 15 min. Ambientacion, coro (mandar al mano el que tenga nesecidad.) 11:00 11:15 EL PERDON Y ORACION POR LA EFUCION DEL ESP. SANTO. tiempo 2 hrs. Tema 1:15 Pastores repartir correspondencia, (que se reunan con su pastor) 1:30 Reflexion Personal, (leer correspondencia.) serbicio preparar el comodor, el aseo de la escuela. 2:00 Comida, en el aire libre. 3:00 Tiempo para arreglarse para la misa. (todos) E de D y Aspirantes. Tiendita 3:45 Ambientacion. 4:00 LLENOS DEL ESPIRITU SANTO Y SUS FRUTOS. Tiempo 45 min. Тепа 4:45 Pastoreo. 5:00 Eucaristia. (poner un canto) 5:20 Presentacion de Ministerios. 5:40 entrega de Relojes. 5:50 6:20 Amigo secreto. preparacion para la Prosecion a la Iglesia. (Explicar lo de la Clausura.) 6:40 Prosecion. 7:00 Misa. 8:00 Clausura. 8:45 Avisos para la convivencia.



!! CRISTO VIVE!!

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